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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on UN Chief's Proposal, Gulf Crisis

JN0411151990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with "Palestinian President" Yasir 'Arafat by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] As you know, the UN secretary general has called for a meeting of the signatory states to the Geneva Convention concerning the protection of the Palestinian people under occupation. What is your reaction to this call, and what are the possible means to protect the Palestinian citizens under occupation?

['Arafat] Although we have certain reservations on the call made by the secretary general to the signatory states of the Geneva Convention, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the protection of civilians under occupation, we all—both inside and outside the occupied territory—have dealt and will deal positively with the secretary general's initiative. This is despite the fact that we believe it is not enough. What was supposed to have happened—and we have been demanding this since the Security Council's meeting in Geneva to discuss the massacre in 'Ayn Qarah, Rishon LeZiyyon... [changes thought] our position was very clear; namely, the need to deploy international troops to protect our children, women, and kinfolk. At the same time, we said this must be done through a resolution issued by the United Nations, by the Security Council, not only to protect the people and the children, women, and men, but also—as far as we as Christian and Muslim believers are concerned—to protect the Islamic and Christian sacred places, which Israelis are planning to Judaize in the city of Jerusalem.

As you know, the Jerusalem massacre was planned and executed by the Temple Mount Faithful group under the supervision and protection of the Israeli Government, Army, Police, and armed settlers during their attempt to lay the foundation stone for the third temple. Our people—women and children, Christians and Muslims—confronted them, just as they confronted them together in the past in defense of the St. John Hospice, which is still under the control of those armed settlers with the supervision of the Israeli Government.

I say, once again, that despite this we will deal positively with this gesture, and I do not wish to call it an initiative. What is required from the UN Security Council, which has passed nine or ten resolutions on the Gulf crisis, is to pass one single resolution to send troops to protect the first qiblah, the third holiest mosque, and the place from which the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven and the cradle of Jesus, may God bless them both. We will, God willing, cooperate with this. We hope that the 164 signatory states, including Israel itself, which signed [the Convention] but declared that it does not abide by it, take... [changes thought] I want to know what the world will do to protect this people and their sacred places. The ball is now in the UN court and we want to see how they will respond to the pampered child, whom they have spoiled with large quantities of funds and weapons; that is, the State of Israel, or the Zionist entity to be more precise.

[Reporter] Do you think the link between the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis has now grown stronger than before?

['Arafat] Yes, of course. This is basically due to the position of brother President Saddam Husayn in his 12 August initiative linking the Gulf crisis to Middle East issues, especially the Palestine question and Lebanon. While pointing out this important point, I would like to say that President Saddam Husayn was responding to the demand of the stone-throwing children when he made this link. Later, the PLO, together with all virtuous Arabs, foremost of which are my brother His Majesty King Husayn and my brothers in Yemen, Sudan, and the Arab Maghreb Union, embarked on efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to defuse tension. At that time, many sides were saying no [to those efforts] and yes to war. But they later discovered that war would not serve their own purposes and would be a catastrophe for the Arab nation—for Arab military and economic power—and that the only beneficiaries would be Bush, America, and America's allies, especially Israel. But I want to tell them that the massacre of Jerusalem and the massacre of Gaza yesterday and today will not affect the determination of the Palestinian people. The intifadah, with God's help, will continue wave after wave until the Israeli occupation is terminated and the Palestinian flag is raised on Jerusalem's walls, minarets, and churches. I am saying that, at that time, we were a few Arab countries believing in a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis under an international umbrella. It was as though we were shouting in the desert, but now this correct approach has gained supporters, not just in the international arena. This began with the initiative of President Mitterrand, the European statement, the European-Soviet statement, the recent press conference after the Gorbachev-Mitterrand meeting, and above all the firm Chinese position rejecting war and insisting on a peaceful solution. This approach is also reflected through the position of Japan, some Scandinavian countries, and all nonaligned countries, including the clear and explicit position of some Islamic states.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President. Our thanks to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat Letter on Adherence to Peace Initiative

JN0511182790 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 90

["Text" of letter sent by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the United Charitable Society for the Holy Lands on 4 November—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Brother President of the United Charitable Society for the Holy Lands, brother and sister members of the Society, esteemed guests: In connection with your celebrations of the declaration of independence, the declaration of the state of Palestine, and the fourth anniversary of your people's blessed intifadah, I am glad to extend to all of you—members, guests, and friends—in my name and on behalf of my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee and our struggling Palestinian Arab people, heartfelt congratulations and sincere, brotherly good wishes. [passage omitted]

Brother and sister members, esteemed guests: While our people are waging the battle of independence and freedom, the battle of dignity and national sovereignty, they stress their firm adherence to the Palestinian peace initiative and to the convening of the UN-sponsored international peace conference. Our people also call on the United Nations and the world community to assume their responsibilities in securing international protection for our people under the yoke of the Israeli occupation and in pressuring Israel into complying with international legitimacy, respecting international law, and implementing all UN resolutions on the Palestine question, because world legitimacy is an indivisible whole.

Israeli arrogance and belligerence have reached a peak with the Israeli enemy Government's defiance of the Security Council—whose prime responsibility is to maintain world peace and security—through its rejection of Resolution No. 672. This would not have been possible without the unlimited and comprehensive U.S. support for Israel. This support heightens Israel's intransigence and encourages it to proceed with its aggressive and expansionist policy and its crimes against our people.

Brothers and sisters, friends and guests: This important, fateful stage through which your people are currently passing, and the extent of challenges and conspiracies they are facing, impose on you the huge responsibility and burden of mustering all material and moral support for your people, especially since they are now suffering from a financial and economic siege over their genuine pan-Arab position toward the Gulf crisis, represented by their continuous political efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and keep war away and by their strong opposition to the foreign military presence in our region and sacred lands. [passage omitted]

PLO Calls for UN Session on West Bank, Gaza

JN0511183890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The PLO has called for a UN Security Council emergency session to discuss the serious current situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the PLO leader, said that the PLO will ask the UN Security Council to dispatch an international force to the occupied territories to protect the Palestinian people from Israeli terrorism.

Report Views PLF's Expulsion From Libya

PM0511142290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Nov 90 pp 1-4

[Unattributed report: "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Exclusive: Why Libya Decided To Expel Abu-al-'Abbas' Organization"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed diplomatic sources confirmed yesterday that Libya has indeed expelled the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] led by Muhammad 'Abbas [Abu-al-'Abbas] from its territory and closed its offices in Benghazi and Tripoli in an quick and quiet operation, unannounced but with the consent of the PLO in Tunis so that it would not appear to reflect a change in Libya's policy toward the Palestinian cause but to be consistent with the PLO's official line.

It is worth mentioning that it was the Abu-al-'Abbas organization that was behind the attack on an Israeli beach last May. Its members who were immediately arrested admitted that they had been trained in Libya. Tripoli, however, has frequently denied any involvement in the operation, which later led to the suspension of the U.S.-PLO dialogue. It also created tension between the Abu-al-'Abbas organization and Libya because of the members' immediate confession that Libya had played a role—or their "incrimination" of Libya, if in fact it was not involved.

Relations improved a great deal between Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat following the Baghdad summit. They discussed the Abu-al-'Abbas movement's position several times, but neither wished to hasten Abu-al-'Abbas' "punishment" so as to prevent such an action from appearing to be a response to Washington pressure. A decision was again postponed after the invasion of Kuwait, but developements in the Gulf crisis have helped prepare conditions for a decision to be made now.

Despite Libya's reserved position on how the Kuwaiti crisis should be tackled, Tripoli did not support the invasion operation. Baghdad understood this message, to the extent that it turned back a Libyan plane loaded with aid that arrived in Baghdad last week. Tripoli regarded that as an unjustified insult to its position.

Meanwhile, informed Palestinian sources emphasize that the PLO now favors the resumption of relations and talks with the United States, which insists on Abu-al-'Abbas' punishment. The PLO hopes that Washington will regard the Libyan action as a clear message regarding carrying out such a punishment. [passage omitted]

The PLO and Tripoli were annoyed by reports that Abu-al-'Abbas sent some of his troops to Kuwait to help the Iraqi forces there, that support reports of a Palestinian role which the PLO and the Palestinian people's sons in Kuwait reject.

Before its expulsion from Libya, the Abu-al-'Abbas organization totaled no more than 35 members distributed between two offices: one in Tripoli opposite the Tuesday market, and the other in Benghazi. Some were at special training centers. Unlike other Palestinian organizations, the PLF did not have camps in Libya.

It is worth mentioning that three weeks ago Tripoli expelled members of another organization and closed their offices.

In a statement it issued yesterday, the Abu-al-'Abbas organization expressed its "shock" at the decision to expel it from Libya. The organization said that, despite its regret concerning the decision, it hopes that it will not affect the traditional ties between Libya and the Palestinian people.

PLF's 'Abbas on 'Embarrassing' U.S. Situation

JN0511122090 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 90 p 1, 9

[Report by Labib 'Abd-al-Khaliq from Baghdad]

[Text] Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has announced the martyrdom of two of the heroes involved in the Jerusalem naval operation which was implemented on 30 May 1990.

The Palestinian struggler Abu-al-'Abbas said in an exclusive interview with the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH that PLF sources have confirmed that the two heroes, Ensign 'Abd-al-Rahman Mahmud, alias Abu-Shihadah, captain of the al-Faw vessel and who belongs to the heroic Martyr 'Adnan Khayrallah group, and Senior Chief Petty Officer Sulayman Ibrahim Abu-Sulayman Hassan, have been martyred inside the occupied territories.

The PLF secretary general also said that according to the latest information the Zionist enemy is preparing for new massacres in the occupied territories.

Abu-al-'Abbas said: We are preparing to confront this Israeli aggression with all the means at our disposal. The PLF response will be strong and harsh.

He added that the Zionist society is a military society armed with all the means available to the Zionist government and in a way that makes this society commit massacres against the sons of our people on a daily basis, especially after our people developed their intifadah and began using varied methods of fighting such as knives and spears. Undoubtedly, the Palestinian people will further develop their use of weapons.

He pointed out that the Zionist enemy is pushing its troops and intelligence agents in the occupied territories toward violent confrontations with the sons of our people. The novelty in these confrontations lies in providing the civilian Israeli settlers with regulations which allow them to use weapons against our people under the protection and safety of the law. We do not find this at all surprising as it has always been the case. The aggressive authorities took no measures to stop the Israeli settlers from killing the sons of our people. They have always adopted perfunctory measures to make it appear before world public opinion that they do not approve of these killings. In fact, they are perpetrated by the enemy against our people as a result of well-studied and instigated operations which are protected and sanctioned by the ruling institution in Israel.

With regard to organizing Palestinian military action, Abu-al-'Abbas affirmed that in the first place this had not stopped for 25 years. The modern Palestinian revolution has played its role in all political and military fields and has not stopped for a moment over the past three years. Our steadfast people inside the occupied territories are performing their lofty duties of struggle with all the means at their disposal. Israel's rejection of Security Council resolutions is not new. Israel has never, since its existence as a usurping entity in the land of Palestine, accepted any of the Security Council resolutions. The resolutions accepted by Israel serve the interests of its existence and usurpation of the Arab land in Palestine. The Israeli rejection of Security Council resolutions is normal and does not surprise us at all. The test facing world countries now is the real one since these countries and the Security Council must make a decision regarding the Israeli aggression and its rejection of the Security Council resolutions. Will the international community deal with Israel's rejection of the Security Council resolutions with the same intensity and measures that it dealt with Iraq after the issuance of the Security Council resolutions against it, or is there another set of laws for Israel which allows it things that are not allowed for others? This is the question before the international community. We expect more massacres against our people and further invasions and belligerence. We promise to continue confronting this Israeli aggression by all the means at our disposal.

On whether the U.S. Administration could sacrifice all its remaining interests in the Middle East region by striking Iraq, he said: The U.S. Administration believes, based on the facts available to it, that its equipment, in addition to its international weight and military and economic forces and capabilities, guarantee that it will realize its illegal interests in the Arab homeland. The reality, which we as Arab strugglers know, is different. The reality is that the Arab power and the great readiness of the Arab individual to preserve his legitimate interests will defeat the illegitimate U.S. interests in the Arab region. The truth is that the U.S. Administration is now in a very embarrassing situation due to the options before it. Logic indicates that it should abandon its belligerence, control, and interference in internal Arab affairs and give the Arab individual the opportunity for self-determination and the chance to define the manner in which he wishes to solve his differences.

Palestinian Official on UN Resolution, Jerusalem

AU0511165390 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 1 Nov 90 p 2

[Interview with Hikmat Zayd, Palestinian ambassador to Budapest, by Vikto Palfi; in Budapest, date not given:

"The Jerusalem Shootings Came at a Wrong Time for the United States"—first paragraph is MAGYAR NEMZET introduction]

[Excerpts] The stormy political waves that emerged in the wake of the tragic events in Jerusalem have not subsided, even after more than three weeks. The Israeli security forces fired into the demonstrating and stone-throwing Arabs in this holy city of the three great religions. The result of the shootings: 21 dead and more than 150 wounded. Since the event, the UN Security Council has condemned Israel in two separate resolutions: First, for the armed aggression against demonstrators, and then, for refusing entrance to Israel to a special committee of the UN Secretary General which intended to investigate the events in Jerusalem. Both Security Council resolutions were passed unanimously, and, contrary to his usual attitude, this time the U.S. delegate did not make use of his right to veto the resolution. There are two people in Budapest who "officially" represent two different opinions. The readers will evaluate the extent of their differences. Our reporter was recently received by ambassador Hikmat Zayd, the representative of Palestinians in Budapest, and also by Israeli Ambassador Shlomo Merom, and they answered almost identical questions. We will publish the opinions of the Israeli ambassador in a later issue.

[Palfi] Mr. Ambassador, how did the Palestinians receive the UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel?

[Zayd] With mixed feelings: We welcome the fact that a prestigious UN body like the Security Council has finally agreed to severely condemn Israel for the bloody events in Jerusalem, and this decision was made unanimously, and none of the permanent members of the Security Council vetoed the resolution. The fact that Israel's "strategic ally" in the area, namely the United States, this time discarded its role of "permanent opposition" and did not refrain from condemning Israel is particularly important. All we can say to this is that "it is better late than never." [passage omitted]

[Palfi] In view of this new attitude on the part of the United States, do you think that this is a pale sign that the United States and Israel are advancing on separate roads?

[Zayd] This is a rather exaggerated conclusion. The view according to which Israel is the only country in the area capable of "containing" the unpredictable Arabs still prevails in the United States. The brutal action of Israeli security forces in Jerusalem came at a wrong time for the United States primarily because Washington is trying to create some sort of a united front against Iraq by including some Arab countries. Now, following the Israeli shooting, world public opinion turned to the Palestinian problem. Washington does not applaud Israel for this, but, as so many times before, the United States will forgive Israel.

[Palfi] Do you regard the demonstration of Palestinians in Jerusalem as part of the intifadah, or is this the result of something else?

[Zayd] We support the intifadah and we feel great solidarity with it, but I can assure you that the PLO did not have "a hand" in this affair. This demonstration broke out spontaneously, and not as a result of orders from PLO Headquarters in Tunis. The PLO does not exercise operative guidance over the intifadah, but the intifadah's local leaders decide on the steps to be taken. Rumors began to spread in Jerusalem that members of an extremist Jewish group intended to lay the foundation stone of a new Jewish temple on the holy mount, in the immediate vicinity of the Muslim holy places. This led to the demonstration. Israeli Premier Shamir's speech the previous day, in which he declared that a new Jewish district would soon be built in East Jerusalem, also added fuel to the fire. The Israeli security forces criminally overreacted to this demonstration to such an extent that the UN Security Council also had to deal with it. [passage omitted]

'Moderate' Leader Al-Husayni on Peace Prospects

AU0511155390 Vienna KURIER in German 5 Nov 90 p 5

[Interview with "moderate Palestinian leader" Faysal al-Husayni by Guenther Baumann; place and date not given—"We Want Peace With Israel"]

[Text] [Baumann] Let us assume that you could engineer a peace settlement between Israel and Palestine. What would it be like?

[Al-Husayni] I would found an independent Palestinian state, comprising the occupied territories—that is the West bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. This Palestinian state, however, would have to be incorporated into a cooperation including all countries in the region. If possible, this should be a region with open borders and without controls. Of course, we would also need security troops, but by no means a large army. Otherwise we would have a balance of terror and no real peace. As far as security is concerned, I would rather rely on international guarantees and not so much on the military.

[Baumann] In view of the situation in the Middle East, such ideas seem rather utopian.

[Al-Husayni] You are right. Distrust and hatred have again increased dramatically as a result of the Gulf crisis and the Temple Mount massacre. At times the situation seems hopeless to me. I believe, however, that we are at a turning point. If we succeed in settling the Gulf conflict without a war, as a next step we might tackle the Palestinian problem. If a war breaks out, the whole region will be destabilized for the next few years to come.

[Baumann] The Palestinians have discredited themselves by supporting Saddam Husayn.

[Al-Husayni] We only support Saddam Husayn's policy on a single point: His offer that he will withdraw from Kuwait if Israel withdraws from the occupied territories. When Yasir 'Arafat visited Saddam Husayn in Baghdad, he spoke against the invasion of Kuwait. The international press, however, presented his visit in a way suggesting that the PLO supports Iraq. This is creating problems for us now in our dialogue with Israel.

[Baumann] Does such a dialogue really exist?

[Al-Husayni] To a certain extent. Israel's right-wing government drives people to increasingly extreme positions. It rather conducts a monologue about us than a dialogue with us. This government does not care about world opinion. It rejects all mediation offers, whether they come from U.S. Secretary of State Baker of Egyptian President Mubarak. Israel must realize, however, that it cannot continue in the same way as in the 20 years before the intifadah. We Palestinians claim the right to build our own infrastructure and our own economy in order to become independent of Israel. We have been denied this right to this very day.

[Baumann] Violence by Palestinians against Israelis is again increasing. Is this an officially approved exacerbation of the intifadah?

[Al-Husayni] No, it is not. Actions by individuals are involved here. Many Palestinians have lost all hope. They are ready to die if they see the slightest chance that this might change something. The Israelis are treating us like outcasts. They kill us without any reason. They do not apply human law, but the law of the jungle. Thus, they should not be surprised if some Palestinians react as if in the jungle.

[Baumann] Does this mean that the Palestinians are not at all to be blamed for these aggressions?

[Al-Husayni] We are, of course, human beings and no angels. Unfortunate activities and statements have also occurred on our side. The Palestinian leadership, however, advocates negotiations, compromises, and peace. In Israel, this applies only to the opposition. But the opposition is not in a position to change anything.

Spokesman Views Israeli 'String of Savageries'

JN0211181690 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] An official Palestinian spokesman has stated the following:

The Zionist entity has taken advantage of the preoccupation of world public opinion with the Gulf crisis to perpetrate a string of savageries against our defenseless people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

Also, yesterday evening, the Zionist enemy mounted an air raid against Palestinian and Lebanese positions in the southern Lebanese al-Biqa' plain, causing heavy damage to civilian property, martyring three people, and wounding over twenty others.

Algeria

Solidarity Party Denounces Bush Gulf Visit

LD0511125890 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] U.S. President George Bush has decided to embark on an exploratory visit to the armed forces in the Gulf. The visit is expected to take place on 22 November.

The Algerian National Party for Solidarity and Development has issued a statement denouncing the visit and calling on all national Algerian and Arab parties to declare 22 November a day of denunciation of the U.S. aggressive policy.

Egypt

Baker Visits Cairo To Discuss Gulf Crisis

Meets With Mubarak

NC0611123690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Presidential Office today. The bilateral talks dealt with various developments in the Gulf crisis.

Departs After Brief Visit

NC0611162390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1602 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Cairo for Turkey this evening following a visit of several hours to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Baker also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Baker held private talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen at Cairo International Airport after the latter's arrival in Cairo this afternoon.

Baker was accompanied on the visit by an official delegation that included Robert Kimmitt, U.S. under secretary of state for political affairs, Paul Wolfowitz, U.S. under secretary of defense for policy, and John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

Reaction, Commentary Regarding Baker Talks

AL-JUMHURIYAH on War Option

NC0611165490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 6 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH says in an editorial today that observers regard James Baker's tour as very vital in light of its accurate timing, when talk of the military option as an ultimate solution has increased because of Saddam Husayn's persistent intransigence.

French President Francois Mitterrand commented on the issue by saying: We are working for peace but in the spirit of defending international rights guaranteed by the United Nations. We are not governed by war sentiments. Nevertheless, that must not be at the expense of international rights.

The paper explains that Cairo is continuing its contacts and efforts for the sake of peace and so that the Arab nation may devote itself to its basic causes and regain its solidarity and unity. The paper notes that the Arab nation, however, will not relinquish any right or abandon any duty. It is concerned with establishing international legitimacy in order to confront some people's actions.

AL-AHRAM Comments

NC0611164490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 6 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial headlined "Toward a Decisive Action," AL-AHRAM writes: In statements before his arrival, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not make it a secret that the military option will be one of the central topics of his talks in the countries he will visit. He pointed out that his tour aims to learn the conditions demanded by the concerned capitals for supporting a potential military action.

These remarks gave a general impression that Baker seeks a commitment by these countries to participate in the military operations according to their capabilities.

AL-AHRAM adds that several factors make the use of force more likely. Among these are reports circulating that the United States no longer objects to a final resolution by the UN Security Council authorizing member states to resort to military operations to implement earlier resolutions under the UN umbrella.

The paper adds that these factors include also the permanent gap within the alliance, something which proves the absolute insincerity of the peaceful approach. Moreover, there is a growing feeling that even if Saddam accepts withdrawal at the last moment, a strike against him will be necessary to prevent him from repeating such an occupation later on, to avoid the emergence of a similar example, and to maintain the stability of the new world system.

Chinese Foreign Minister Visits for One Day

Arrives in Cairo 6 Nov

NC0611134890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1329 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Qian Qichen arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a one-day visit to Egypt during which he will meet with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The Chinese minister will hold a meeting in the VIP lounge at the airport with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker prior to the latter's departure from Egypt at 1600 today.

Meets With Baker at Airport

NC0611140290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has held a private discussion with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in the VIP lounge at Cairo International Airport. The Chinese minister arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Comments on Talks With Baker

NC0611171290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1621 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Following talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Cairo airport this afternoon, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said that he reviewed several issues with the U.S. secretary, noting that the talks centered on the Gulf crisis.

The PRC minister said that he exchanged views with the U.S. secretary of state and that agreement and commitment was voiced concerning the need to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis based on the UN Security Council resolutions.

The PRC minister said that the talks took place in an atmosphere of complete understanding and that the two sides agreed to continue consultations. Qian Qichen said that the need to reach a peaceful solution was emphasized. He added that Baker said we should not exclude other means.

The PRC minister reiterated his country's stand, saying that as long as there is hope for a peaceful solution we should work to achieve that.

Replying to a question on Iraq's declaration that the State of Kuwait no longer exists, the PRC minister said that he came (?to Cairo) not as a mediator but to examine the possibilities of a peaceful solution. He said: I have not discussed any specific proposals, but most countries are opposed to war.

Qian Qichen said that tomorrow he will discuss several topics with President Mubarak with particular emphasis on the Gulf crisis and the existing options.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Practices

NC0511134090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has denounced the wave of violence waged by the Israeli occupation forces and called on Israeli officials to exercise restraint and refrain from such practices that only serve to incur international condemnation.

The Foreign Ministry called on Israel to submit to the international community's will by ending the occupation and complying with the UN Security Council resolution. This resolution called on the UN secretary general to dispatch a fact-finding committee to the Arab occupied territories and to arrange a meeting of the Geneva convention signatories to discuss the treatment of civilians under occupation.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement issued today said: The media have reported the horrendous events that took place over the past two days in Gaza and the occupied Arab territories. As a result of the irresponsible practices of the Israeli troops against the Palestinian citizens, several Palestinians were martyred and hundreds of others were injured.

Ministry Source Denies B-52's, Foreign Troops

NC0511163890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1621 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense has denied reports published in some Egyptian newspapers that B-52 fighter aircraft [as received] are stationed in the Arab Republic of Egypt. The source said that this piece of news is groundless.

The source added that there are no foreign forces on Egyptian territory.

Belgian Defense Minister Meets With Ghali

NC0511175590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme, who is presently visiting Egypt. Discussions dealt with means of boosting and developing cooperation between the two countries and the situation in the Gulf region.

After the meeting, the Belgian defense minister stated that the talks dealt with the latest developments in Africa, particularly the problem of Rwandan refugees and the OAU's role in this matter. He added that the talks also dealt with the Gulf crisis and that they exchanged information on this, noting that Belgium's stand on this crisis is clear and calls for commitment to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions.

He said that the question now is the extent of the economic boycott's effectiveness. He expressed his belief that this boycott has to last a long time to yield results, particularly in the military aspect. He noted the need to continue to give precedence to the peaceful and diplomatic solutions of this crisis on the condition that the other side is willing to accept these peaceful solutions.

For his part, Dr. Ghali said that he agreed with Guy Coeme on continuing consultations between the two countries on the situation in Rwanda. He added that the two countries have a common aim; namely, the establishment of peace in this sensitive part of the African continent. He noted that Rwanda is one of the Nile Basin countries and belongs to the Undugo [Swahili for brotherhood] group, and that this entails a particular responsibility for Egypt, making it work to resolve this region's conflicts through peaceful means.

Ghali Leaves on Tour; To Visit Italy, Asia

NC0511175690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon at the start of a tour that includes Italy, India, Japan, and China.

In a predeparture statement to the radio reporter, he said he will talk with the Italian prime minister and foreign minister on developments in the Gulf region and efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict. He added that he will then go to India to deliver a written message from President Mubarak to the Indian prime minister, will talk with officials there on Egypt's stand on the Gulf crisis, and will consult with Indian leaders on the Nonaligned Movement's role in containing that crisis. Bilateral relations will also be discussed, he added.

Dr. Ghali said that he will then go to Tokyo as President Mubarak's representative at the coronation of the Japanese emperor and will contact the heads of delegations attending these celebrations. Afterward, he will travel to China to deliver a message from President Mubarak to the Chinese president and to hold talks with Chinese officials on bilateral relations and the Middle East situation. During the meetings, he will stress Egypt's commitment to implementation of the Security Council resolutions calling for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy. Dr. Ghali added that his Asian tour falls within Egypt's consultations with these countries to play a role in international issues and to boost bilateral relations with them.

Commentary Calls For Peaceful Solution to Crisis

NC0311152790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt Continues Its Efforts To Resolve the Gulf Crisis Peacefully"]

[Text] Anyone who has followed Egypt's stand on the Gulf problem since its inception on 2 August, when the head of the Iraqi regime invaded the sisterly State of Kuwait under cover of night, will notice an important fact: From the first moment, Egypt has exerted all possible efforts to contain the crisis peacefully and within an Arab framework to keep away the dangers threatening collective Arab security, of which Egypt's security is an indivisible part. Egypt has pursued its efforts on all Arab and international levels to resolve this crisis without bloodshed.

President Husni Mubarak's repeated appeals to the head of the Iraqi regime to reconsider his stand; respect the will of the international community; and implement the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the State of Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government are evidence of the sincerity of Egypt's stand, which stems from concern for the safety of all the Arab people, including the fraternal Iraqi people. In addition, Egypt has acted on the basis of its historic and pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab nation.

Although Egypt has not stopped its peaceful efforts for one moment through the visits and the direct contacts undertaken by President Mubarak or the visits paid to Cairo throughout the past months by several Arab and Foreign leaders, it is still stressing that it adheres to its firm stand on the need to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully and to avoid a bloody military confrontation that would have destructive and negative effects affecting the Arabs for many years to come. In line with this consistent Egyptian stand, this week Cairo will witness diplomatic meetings and consultations between President Mubarak and several world leaders, focusing on discussing the means to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Tomorrow President Mubarak will meet with French President Mitterrand. Immediately afterward the U.S. secretary of state, the Chinese foreign minister, and some friendly African leaders will visit Cairo. President Mubarak's talks with Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, with the U.S. secretary of state, and with the Chinese foreign minister are of particular importance, given that France, the United States, and China are permanent members of the UN Security Council.

These talks will be held at a time when the possibilities of a military solution to the Gulf crisis have increased following the failure of Soviet envoy Primakov's mission during his recent shuttle tour. Moreover, the Mubarak-Mitterrand meeting comes on the heels of the European Summit, which emphasized a unified European stand rejecting Saddam's aggression against Kuwait, and rejecting as well all his attempts to play the card of the foreign hostages held in Iraq. Mitterrand's visit to Cairo also comes in the wake of the recent meeting between the French president and Soviet leader Gorbachev in Paris and their intensive talks on the Gulf crisis. This is an important point because France and the Soviet Union have sponsored the call for the need to find a peaceful settlement to the crisis and avert a military showdown despite their full condemnation of Saddam Husayn's invasion of Kuwait and his holding of hostages, a behavior which Gorbachev has described as immoral. France and the Soviet Union have also supported all UN Security Council resolutions condemning Saddam's crime and calling on him to withdraw immediately and without condition from Kuwait, and restore the legitimate government of Kuwait.

President Mubarak's talks with Mitterrand, with the Chinese foreign minister, and with the U.S. secretary of state come in the wake of Mubarak's recent successful tour of the Gulf states. This tour confirmed the unity of the Arab stand rejecting aggression and calling for the exertion of all possible efforts to convince the ruler of Iraq to obey the Arab and international will and solve the problem peacefully.

In light of all this, two important facts are evident. First, Egypt plays a vanguard and effective role in the Arab arena in view of its political and international status, making it incumbent that Egypt should play its role fully in solving any Arab problem. Second, this Egyptian role is based on the principle of Egypt's sincere desire to establish just peace, not only in the Arab region but in the whole world, and its rejection of any aggression against any Arab country, regardless of its source.

Therefore, the whole world, and above all the Arabs, are looking to Cairo these days with the hope that Mubarak's continuing efforts on the international scene will produce positive results which can contribute effectively toward a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis based on Iraq's total and immediate withdrawal from Kuwait without bloodshed. Will the ruler of Iraq realize this?

Defense Minister Attends Air Force Exercise

NC0511191590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Wadi al-Natrun, 5 Nov (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production and Armed forces commander in chief, commended the Egyptian Air Force's level of performance, particulary during night operations. He stressed that this level of performance makes us proud of the Air Force and assures us of its ability to bear the responsibility of the great tasks that could be assigned to the Armed Forces in these critical circumstances.

The defense minister's remarks came in a press statement he made yesterday evening after attending the Air Force's biggest exercise, in which 140 aircraft took part. The exercise was attended by Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa; Belgian Defense Minister Guy Coeme; Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Armed Forces chief of staff; Air Defense Commander Lt. Gen. Mustafa al-Shadhili; Engineer Muhammad 'Izzat 'Adil, chairman of the Suez Canal Authority; senior Armed Forces commanders; a number of the military attaches accredited to Cairo; and Egyptian Staff College students of various nationalities.

Gen. Abu-Talib said that the Air Force, with its great role, facilitates the work of the ground troops, noting that whoever controls the sky over the battle gives the ground forces a chance to achieve victory. The defense minister added that there is ample room for technological competition in night battles. He noted that he who has the upper hand in a night battle creates an opportunity for victory in crucial battles that could change the course of fighting. From this point arises the struggle to possess the most advanced electronic equipment, as well as to obtain sophisticated air force technology. This struggle, he added, determines who is best in the end, since in modern battles the strongest survive.

On the Air Forces' 58th anniversary, Gen. Abu-Talib paid tribute to the Air Force's high-level performance, noting its role in the October 1973 victory and how the air strike, led by President Husni Mubarak, was the key to victory.

The Belgian defense minister made a similar statement in which he praised the exercise and said it was a great exercise in which performance approached professional level. He added: My congratulations to your Air Force and all your forces, of which you should be proud.

Asked for an assessment of the Egpytian pilots who took part in the exercise, he said they have reached the highest levels.

At the beginning of the exercise, Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Nasr made a speech stressing that the Air Force anniversary this year has come during circumstances that call on us to hold tight, more than ever before, to what is sincere and honest and that make us more aware of the great responsibility requiring the utmost dedication, the highest level of precision, and the greatest degree of sacrifice.

He said that the Air Force will continue to modernize its armament and equipment and will pursue the scientific approach based on extensive and comprehensive studies of all the surrounding circumstances, with the sincere help of the political and military leaders, who have faith in the Air Force's role in modern battle.

He added that the exercise demonstrates the Air Force's ability to execute combat operations during critical times in battle, and in continuation of daytime operations by making air strikes and assisting ground troops at night, something that requires a high level of efficiency and ability.

The Air Force night exercise included the implementation and administration of combat operations by Air Force and paratroop units with the aim of recovering a vital target, in this case, a forward air base which had earlier been seized by the enemy.

The exercise had three stages. The first stage involved the launching of an air strike at the base just before sunset. It included reconnoitering the targeted area and achieving tactical air superiority by destroying hostile planes defending the base, as well as the base's air defense means. It also included destroying the base's joint command center, administrative affairs area, and defensive tank battalion.

The second stage included a second air strike at night, following information that the enemy was trying to control the situation at the base. It included electronic warfare to jam and obstruct the enemy's air defense means and the destruction of the runways, aircraft shelters, joint command center, and remnants of the tank battalion.

The third stage involved seizing the base, securing it, and making it operational so that it would be ready to receive our planes at daybreak. Helicopters landed paratroopers, engineers, signal corps personnel, and administrative personnel, who seized the base and prepared it to become operational and to receive our planes at dawn. Early warning aircraft and fighter planes helped accomplish all this.

A total of 140 planes from 13 air brigade squadrons took part in the exercise. Seventy-five planes took part in the first air strike while 65 planes participated in the second. These included 38 F-16's, 14 Mirage-5's, 12 Alphajets, six Mirage-2000's, six MiG-21's, 36 C-8 helicopters, nine C-130 transport planes, three Chinook helicopters, three Buffalo helicopters, one E-2C early warning and control aircraft, and one pilotless plane. [figures as received]

A paratroop battalion also took part in the exercise, in addition to a company of military engineers, a signal corps platoon, and administrative personnel.

Midair refueling of some aircraft took place during the operation, especially of planes assigned to defense duty and tactical air control.

The exercise demonstrated the high combat efficiency of the Air Force in night operations and in the good use of available resources. It also highlighted the coordination between the various Air Force units and the destructive effects of certain types of ammunition against various targets.

Prospects of Military Strike Against Iraq Viewed

NC0511202790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb: "When Will War Break Out Between Iraq and the World?"]

[Text] Has zero hour been determined and the countdown begun for a military strike against Iraq? It is easy to answer yes amid the anxiety prevailing everywhere in the world. At the same time, it is very hard to say no. The war issue is not an easy thing, nor is it a matter for gossip. War is a complicated thing—it is easy to begin but difficult to end. If war begins in the Gulf, it will not be restricted to Saddam Husayn and his military power regardless of all that is being said about the peril this power poses to the region and the world and the need to reduce it. The consequences of this war might spread to the entire Arab world. Those who imagine that war in the Gulf will be merely a surgical operation to remove the Saddamist tumor are either speaking about something they do not understand or are turning the issue into a naively superficial one.

Nevertheless, the situation requires some clarification so that this region's sons will not fall victim to anxiety and tension while waiting for the terrible unknown.

The world stood up to Saddam, asserted its rejection of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, and adopted a number of firm international resolutions to impose an economic embargo on it and force it to withdraw from Kuwait. Nevertheless, the preparation for a military confrontation to enforce an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait was accompanied by moves designed to make Saddam withdraw his forces peacefully. Some Arabs proposed initiatives which Saddam did not heed. French President Mitterrand submitted an initiative from the UN forum, in which he expressed the hope that Saddam would announce an intention to withdraw so that the wheels of a peaceful solution would turn. Saddam entered into a process of dalliance with France and spoke of the French hostages, whom he released in acknowledgement of the friendly French stand. He did not, however, even make an announcement about his intention to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. Then, a Soviet envoy embarked on marketing an ambiguous peace initiative which in its turn produced nothing. Indeed, the Soviets themselves announced that the mission of Soviet envoy Primakov had failed.

Throughout the foregoing period, a feeling of optimism, that it was possible to attain a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, prevailed. Naturally, this optimism could be attributed to the fact that the whole world does not want a military confrontation because it fully realizes the perils and catastrophes. The situation soon turned upside down, and pessimism replaced optimism. Talk of war began to be heard. Indeed, some people specified the date of the military strike in the same way they would announce the date of a new threatrical production.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to the Gulf heightened the talk of war. Political observers said that the U.S. secretary would join the leaders of the Arab countries who oppose Saddam Husayn in putting the final touches on the imminent war. The U.S. official's visit was accompanied by an announcement that Syria was sending additional military reinforcements, consisting of tanks, to repulse the expected Iraqi aggression. Syria initially pledged to send 20,000 troops to the Gulf to help defend the region.

On the other side, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Jasim repeated his statement that Kuwait is a part of Iraq, that it is the 19th Iraqi province, that the Iraqi forces will never leave it, and that Baghdad will not negotiate about it with any party under any circumstances. The Iraqi information minister asked the world to forget that there was ever such a thing as the State of Kuwait. Doubtlessly, the Iraqi information minister's remarks were a message to the U.S. secretary of state, emphasizing that Iraq insists on rejecting any peaceful attempt to settle the crisis and that it is ready to confront all the resulting dangers.

At this stage, the crisis reaches a turning point where the international community cannot but compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait by force. As to when the confrontation will take place and the shells will fly, this is a matter that does not depend on the analysis of observers and salon generals, but is far more complicated.

Wafd Leader Insists Poll Boycott 'Irreversible'

PM0511170790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
29 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Wafd Leader Replies to Government Newspapers' Allegations: Wafd's Decision To Boycott Elections Final and Irreversible]

[Text] Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din yesterday emphasized the falseness of the allegations reported by some government newspapers about the possibility of the party's participation in the People's Assembly elections.

Siraj-al-Din described what is reported by these newspapers as unfounded delusions, dreams, and hopes. This is because the government still insists on holding the elections without providing the necessary guarantees to ensure impartiality.

Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din said that the Wafd's decision to boycott the elections is final and irreversible. In his statement Siraj-al-Din also emphasized that any member of the party who runs for the election can regard himself as dismissed from all Wafd organizations in accordance with the decision of the party's High Committee.

Minister Denies Arab League Employees Harassed

JN0611090590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
4 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, deputy foreign minister for Arab Affairs, has rebutted reports published in the Tunisian AL-CHOUROUK newspaper—reports which were broadcast by Baghdad Radio yesterday that Egyptian security quarters have issued instructions banning the leasing of houses in some Cairo quarters to Arab League employees of Iraqi, Palestinian, and Yemeni nationality. He said these reports are groundless in part and parcel, and that he regrets that some papers publish false reports. He affirmed that Egypt has offered and continues to offer every possible facility for the smooth return of the Arab League secretariat general to its permanent headquarters in Cairo.

Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr said that he will meet with Arab League Assistant Secretary General 'Adnan 'Umran today to discuss the needs of the Arab League's employees who have returned to Cairo, including their personal needs such as the admission of their children into schools and universities and joining sports clubs.

The deputy foreign minister said that these reports are childish attempts by some media organs to obstruct the return of the Arab League to its permanent seat in Cairo. He affirmed that Egypt respects the headquarters agreement which is in force and will not only implement it but will call for amending it to provide more facilities.

Infiltration of Frogmen at Alexandria Port Denied

JN0511171190 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
4 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Major General Imam Hasabu, chief of the Alexandria Port Police Department, has said that there is no truth whatsoever to the report published in an opposition paper that frogmen infiltrated Alexandria Port. He told AL-JUMHURIYAH that what was published is designed to create havoc and disturb security and stability in the country.

Small Industries Allotted $50 Million of Funds

JN0511152090 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
3 Nov 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has pointed out that small industries figure prominently on the government's agenda, with $50 million of the $500 million offered by Saudi Arabia set aside for this sector. Over the next three months, $300 million will be made availabe from the Gulf Development Agency and deposited at Egyptian banks.

'Ubayd added that intensive negotiations are now under way with Arab development funds for them to assist in the special investment zones in the way of equipment and infrastructure to enable small firms to go on line as soon as machinery is in place. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd announced before the 26th congress of alumni of the Higher Management Institute in Alexandria that the correct figure for Egypt's foreign debts is $42.3 billion. The sum has been wholly expended on infrastructure projects, streamlining and increasing production outlets, creating job opportunities, and building the strength of the nation, whose role has now come to the fore not only internally, but also regionally.

AL-AHRAM Alexandria reporter Husayn Thabit reports that in an address to the congress, Dr. 'Ubayd indicated that President Husni Mubarak's handling of the Gulf crisis has underscored an important fact: namely, that a stable, militarily and economically viable Egypt is well placed to be a stabilizing and balancing force in the Arab region, and that it is a haven for others. [passage omitted]

Libya

World Islamic People's Leadership Statement

LD0211195190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 90

["Final statement" issued by extraordinary conference of the World Islamic Peoples' Leadership in Tripoli on 1 November]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the World Islamic Peoples' Leadership [WIPL], an extraordinary meeting of the general conference of the WIPL was held at the Leadership's permanent headquarters 30-31 October 1990. More than 220 leaders of Islamic parties, movements, organizations, and societies, and a large gathering of 'ulema, thinkers, writers, press, and Islamic figures took part in this extraordinary session of the general conference.

After the conference was opened with recitations from the Koran, brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, WIPL leader, delivered a speech at the start of which he welcomed the participating Islamic leaderships and activists and saluted the seriousness and eagerness which he sensed in them, to shoulder their responsibilities toward the leadership and its progressive unionist project. He presented an exhaustive analysis of the current crisis in the Gulf, developments in the Islamic world and the challenges and dangers facing it. At the end of his speech he urged the conference to study the issues on the agenda, to adopt attitudes it deemed fit towards them, and to propose solutions to them in shouldering WIPL rsponsibility towards the masses of the Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

The conferees believe that the Gulf crisis did not start with Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and does not end with the ending of this occupation, because its roots go beyond this; it has dimensions which go beyond the political events that led to it. [passage omitted]

The drastic solution lies in a return to the revival of the spirit of faith and jihad; the application of the Islamic way and making Islam the arbiter in all matters of our life; work for the liberation of Palestine and every Islamic Arab land under occupation; the unification of the nation and the massing of its capabilities, energies, and resources, and making justice and consultation rule its life; the sound distribution of wealth among the various followers; the achievement of social justice for its [the Islamic nation's] peoples; making the Koran and the Sunnah [ways] of the Prophet—God's prayers and peace be upon him—the arbiter in solving disputes among muslims; and implementing the spirit of fraternity, unity, and solidarity among the ranks of the nation.

The Gulf crisis, however, has an actual dimension which must be taken into account when we are dealing with the problem of the withdrawal of Iraqi troops in Kuwait and the colonialist and crusading troops in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf waters, and the other Arab Gulf states. Such was the U.S. role in the crisis prior to Kuwait's occupation and afterwards. Those who have been following U.S. policies in the past two years can only hold the United States entirely responsible for aggravating the situation in the Arab world, a matter which led to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and then to the deployment of foreign troops to the Arabian peninsula and the Gulf.

The United States is entirely responsible for preventing the achievement of a just and balanced Arab and Islamic solution which would ward off the risk of war and would be acceptable to the parties concerned. The crisis is due essentially to the United States' insistence on maintaining the Zionist enemy's strategic military superiority over all the Arab states, individually and collectively, and not allowing any Arab or Islamic state to possess a military potential capable of deterring the Zionist enemy, even relatively. This is why the United States launched a political and media war and carried out military raids against the Great Jamahiriyah under false pretenses while the arsenal of the Zionist enemy was being filled with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons in addition to its considerable superiority in conventional weapons.

It [the United States] did the same with Iraq [as heard], a matter which ended with Iraq occupying Kuwait. The United States had been preparing for such an event. Thus, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia all fell into its claws and the United States used this as an excuse to deploy its troops and other crusading troops in the Gulf region with a view to carrying out its real objectives.

Therefore, the [WIPL] congress considers that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait with the simultaneous replacement of its troops by Arab and Islamic troops, the departure of foreign troops, and an agreement on just and balanced basic outlines for a solution are necessary. This is in order to take away this excuse of the United States and expose its real intention to control oil resources, prop up the Zionist enemy, liquidate the Palestinian intifadah, promote the idea of a Great Israel at the expense of the Muslim Arabs, beleaguer the Arab and Islamic regimes it regards as being disobedient—notably the Great Jamahiriyah, and ponder ways and means to strike at the Islamic awakening throughout the entire Muslim world.

This highlights how especially important it is to use the initiative submitted by the brother leader, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, as a basic for a move by the WIPL to resolve the Gulf crisis, not only to avert war but also to prevent, the United States from deciding the fate of the crisis.

It is necessary to exercise pressure on the parties directly involved in the crisis—Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait—to accept a just and balanced brotherly solution in order to block the United States, which wants to make the crisis into a destructive war to smash Arab military capability, which in turn will open the door for it to subjugate the whole region to its domination and its colonialist, crusader, and Zionist policy. Therefore, the conference urges Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, not in submission to the U.S. will but in confrontation to it, and to abort its endeavors and objectives; and not to squander Iraqi military capability under any circumstances. It also urges Saudi Arabia and the Kuwaiti people to grant Iraq an access to the sea, and to reach an agreement with it and all countries of the Gulf region to establish security in the Gulf and drive away United States control. The conference urges all the Gulf, Arab, and Islamic countries to unite and cooperate in order to curb United States and Zionist control and intervention in the affairs of countries of the world.

Withdrawal from Kuwait must be closely connected and coincide with the entry of Arab and Islamic forces and the evacuation of foreign forces. The conference accuses the U.S. Government of being the primary instigator of the Gulf crisis. It is the obstacle to a just solution that would be fair to everyone. It is also pushing the situation toward war and imposing its will on all parties by pressure and blackmail. Muslims will feel great pain and sorrow and will be humiliated when performing pilgrimage or Umrah [minor pilgrimage] in the presence of the anti-Islamic joint forces, rampaging with their weapons on that sacred land. All that will force millions of muslims to declare jihad to liberate the holy lands, and will force them to demand an independent international people's Islamic instrument [adat] so that it would not be tied to the policy of any country.

The participants decided the following:

A. Regarding the Gulf crisis

1. Based on the initiative put forward by brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the WIPL, the participants propose the following initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. It is based on the following criteria:

Withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the rest of the Arabian Gulf region simultaneously, providing that they be replaced by Arab and Islamic forces under the auspices of the United Nations and under the supervision of the Security Council in coordination with the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization. Lifting the economic embargo imposed on Iraq. Giving Bubiyan Island to Iraq so that it would have access to the Gulf, and returning Runaylah oil fields to Iraq. Kuwait's internal affairs to be left to the Kuwaiti people alone. A united Arab oil policy to be formulated which all the Arab oil-producing countries must adhere to, and preventing Arab countries from violating it. Debts and compensations due to all Arab parties that have suffered as a result of the problem should be settled. An Arab summit should be convened in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to approve the Arab union plan. This initiative is to be implemented under the supervision of the UN secretary general and the Arab League secretary general. A committee comprising members of the leadership and led by the brother secretary general will convey the initiative and discuss its terms and the possibility of implementing its proposals with the concerned parties. It will bear the responsibility for following up all that and consequential measures.

The conference decided to regard the presence of the U.S., crusader, Zionist forces around the Holy Mosque [al-masjid al-haram] and the Prophet's Mosque as constituting a blatant aggression on the most sacred of Islam's sanctities, and standing in the way of performing the pilgrimage rites and aggrandizing the [word indistinct] rites as stipulated by Islam. [passage omitted] Therefore, we believe that millions may refrain from performing this duty this year under these conditions, or tens of thousands who may take part in the pilgrimage will shout as loud as they can condemning the presence of the crusader Zionist forces in the Arabian peninsula, which our Prophet has ordered that no two religions should meet in. [passage omitted]

The participants decided to urge Islamic masses throughout the world to boycott U.S. goods and products and not to deal with U.S. institutions until the U.S. forces are withdrawn from the Arabian peninsula, where the revelation took place and which is the home of the Islamic sacred places. [passage omitted]

The United States is the one which by encouraging and supporting the Zionist enemy pushed it to exploit the Gulf crisis to hasten the laying of the foundation stone for the alleged temple in the courtyard of the noble sanctuary in Jerusalem. [passage omitted] The conference confirms the importance of the contribution of Muslims all over the world to the financing of the WIPL in accordance with the plan prepared in this respect. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Ghanaian Envoy, Message

LD0511135190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic dd 1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Captain Kojo Tsikata, member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] in Ghana, who conveyed to him a written message from Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, chairman of the PNDC, dealing with the two countries' relations and the development of the situation on the African Continent.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Messages to Iraq, USSR

LD0311212890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution today received the charge d'affaires of the Iraqi Embassy in the Great Jamahiriya, Dr. ('Ali al-Jidthi), and asked him to convey an important message to President Saddam Husayn. The message concerns practical (?measures) for solving the Gulf crisis peacefully, including a proposal for holding specific meetings with the parties concerned.

The brother leader of the revolution also received the ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Great Jamahiriyah and asked him to convey a message to the Soviet leadership concerning its role in attempting to solve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Iraqi Student Union President Visits

LD0411193990 Tripoli JANA in English
1750 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Harth [November] 4, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the National Union of Students and Youths in Iraq and the delegation in his company this morning visited the house of the leaders of the revolution to inspect the effects of the aborted American-NATO barbaric aggression.

On the other hand, the secretary of the people's committees affairs to the Secretary of the General People's Congress this morning met with the president of the Iraqi National Union of Students and the delegation in his company.

The president of the union and the delegation in his company arrived in Great Jamahiryah last night on a visit to the country.

Departs 5 Nov

LD0511204890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1615 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Nov (JANA)—Mawlud Zubyan, president of the National Union of Iraqi Students and Youth, left Tripoli today at the end of a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Ministry Protests Arab League Headquarters Move

LD0611002790 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic
2300 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation today issued the following statement:

Out of its belief in the unity of Arab ranks and in the necessity for joint Arab action, the Mauritanian Islamic Republic expresses its dismay at the attempts to transfer the headquarters of the League of Arab States under circumstances incompatible with the unanimous resolutions of the 93d ordinary session of the Arab League Council, which was held in Tunisia on 11 March 1990.

The request made by the Arab Maghreb Union should safeguard the cohesion of our organization until the 94th session of the Arab League Council, in line with what was agreed during the New York meeting on 3 October 1990.

[Words indistinct] The Mauritanian Islamic Republic considers that, as long as there is no unanimity over the matter, the transfer of the league's headquarters under these circumstances and in this manner would be counter to the interests of Arab unity and harmony.

Sudan

Opposition on Government Surveillance of Military

EA0311142090 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic
1800 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The authorities of the ruling military front are continuing their random arrests. After the legitimate military command of the Sudanese Armed Forces declared its challenge to al-Bashir's regime, the regime intensified its surveillance of military personnel. Thus a senior officer and his family were recently arrested (?during) a dinner party which was held in his honor when he returned from working abroad. The arrest and investigation continued for several hours despite the military man's high rank. He was only freed by his acquaintance with an element of the [National] Islamic Front. The security organs repeated the same operation with a group of retired military officers which was meeting a foreign diplomat, a matter that contributed to increased tension in relations that were already strained between Sudan and the neighboring state. It is worth mentioning that the authorities have banned travel abroad for all active military personnel and for those on pension except by an order from the Armed Forces General Command.

Alliance Explains Relations With Garang

EA0611091090 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan in Arabic
1800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Some officers have asked us if we have actually joined Garang's movement and whether Garang is now our leader. The answer is, of course, no. There are facts known to all, however, including ordinary brother soldiers.

The first fact is that Garang's movement is a political-military movement, which has a military as well as a political wing. Garang's movement is a political and military reality which exists in the reality of political life. We have all sat down with the movement, negotiated with it, and learned of whatever solutions it envisages on the war issue.

The politicians in the [National Democratic] Alliance have also sat down with Garang's movement, negotiated with it, and arrived at basic solutions. The movement, for the first time, agreed on the program submitted, agreed to the people's democratic choices, and expressed its readiness to end the war once the National Islamic Front [NIF] government in Khartoum collapses. Moreover, as soon as the declaration of the legitimate command came from Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmed 'Ali, your legitimate leader, our brothers in the movement declared total support for it.

Well brothers, now that the movement has revealed all its intentions, how could the commander in chief and his most experienced, efficient, and able colleagues be committing high treason by negotiating with the movement on ending the war and bringing about peace? Moreover, even before we had sat down with the movement [words indistinct] to free all prisoners of war and to tackle all humanitarian issues.

Well, the question now is: Should his excellency the commander in chief, Lt. Gen. Fathi order the Army in the south not to defend itself under any circumstances? Of course not, simply because the war continues to be fiercely fought by a single isolated party—the Islamic Front. For as long as the war continues [words indistinct] there is no way in which we can say to Garang: Now that you have agreed with us, stop fighting and end the war. But we shall be able to say that to him once the NIF government is overthrown, which is bound to happen, God willing. We shall then hold talks with the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] about peace and ending the war; (?real) peace, not the peace advocated by the ignorant and idiotic Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

We are, of course, committed to not replying to insults, but there are some matters one must reply to. One is the issue of handing over confidential documents to Garang's movement. Today, brothers, every officer knows that the usefulness of a document—any document—is temporary. It is also known that military operations are not (?static). Every day [words indistinct] and tactics change according to new circumstances. I wish to (?stress) that any documents that might have fallen into the hands of Garang's movement concerning the current position, must have leaked from another source which has (?knowledge) of the current and new information and the developments of the situation. We are certainly not that source [words indistinct]. If anyone finds out that (?a certain person) informs Garang's movement about the current positions of the Armed Forces, the legitimate commander in chief, Lt. Gen Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, (?orders) you to bring those people before a court martial.

Next, here is a question directed to Al-Zubayr and his brothers: If you knew that Lt. Gen. Fathi had leaked documents to the movement, why did you [words indistinct]? Did he not stay with you for a full year after (?being discharged from the Army). Why is it that it was only after he had left and announced that he was the legitimate commander that the question of documents and the law of high treason was brought up?

Kuwait

U.S. Secretary of State Meets Amir, Premier

LD0511170990 London KUNA in Arabic 1525 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 5 Nov—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met here today with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. Earlier, Baker met with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Nothing has been announced about the topic of the discussions between Baker and the heir apparent, but it is believed that they centered on the issue of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and ways to end it, in light of Iraq's constant refusal to implement the Arab and international resolutions calling for Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories.

Baker's meeting with Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah was attended by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of state for foreign affairs; Planning Minister Sulayman al-Mutaww'a; Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, minister of state for National Assembly affairs and acting minister of information; and Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, Kuwaiti permanent delegate to the United Nations.

From the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Defense Department Under Secretary Paul Wolfowitz; John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and Southern Asian affairs; Edward Gnehm, the U.S. ambassador designate to the State of Kuwait; and a number of senior officials accompanying Baker.

Baker is due in Cairo tomorrow on a few hours' visit to Egypt. He will have talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials as part of his tour of a number of European and Arab countries which Baker said "will lay down the basis for likely military actions in the Gulf". During his visit to Egypt, Baker is due to have talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen on developments in the Gulf crisis and China's role as a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Saudi Arabia

Secretary of State Baker Received by King Fahd

LD0511214190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2114 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Nov (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at his office in Salam palace today.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and Inspector General; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques' ambassador to the United States; and Charles Freeman, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Confers With Foreign Minister

LD0511225290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2222 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 5 Nov (SPA)—Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Palace of conferences in Jeddah today.

His Royal Highness Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, ambassador to the United States of the custodian of the two holy mosques; and Charles Freeman, U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, attended the meeting.

Departs 6 Nov

LD0611103290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1014 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 Nov (SPA)—The U.S. secretary of state, His Excellency James Baker, left Jeddah this morning following a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD0511203290 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers meeting at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon. Following the meeting, Information Minister Ali al-Shapir said in a statement to SPA:

Within the framework of its interest in the development of the Arabian Gulf situation, the council today reviewed the most important development reported by special briefs on political and military matters. In light of those briefs, the council examined, under noble direction, several international and Arab stances toward the Gulf crisis and heard the beloved king's detailed explanations on those stances and what should be done about such stances.

In another area, following developments in the Palestinian arena, the council has expressed its vehement denunciation and condemnation of the aggressive acts by the Israeli occupation forces in the Arab occupied territories, particularly the flagrant Israeli aggression during the last two days in several places, especially in the Gaza Strip, which led to the fall of a number of martyrs. Hundreds of people were wounded. The Council considered such continued criminal acts by armed Israeli elements against Palestinian citizens to be a continuing violation of international norms and a flagrant challenge to the United Nations Security

Council to send a fact-finding committee to the occupied Arab territories. The council urged, furthermore, international bodies and peace-loving countries to take the initiative and put an end to Israel's repeated violations. [passage omitted]

Al-Sha'ir concluded his statement by pointing out that today the council decided to pay off money owed by governmental institutions to national and foreign companies and institutions as well as individuals, a sum totalling 3,445,223,873 riyals. The Ministry of Finance and National Economy should implement this decision.

Somalia Prime Minister, Delegation Discuss Gulf

Meet With King Fahd

EA0511131090 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Comrade Mohamed Hawadleh Madar, the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] prime minister, who is visiting Saudi Arabia, last night met the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, at Jeddah palace. The premier delivered to the king a message from Mohamed Siad Barre, the SDR president. The custodian of the two holy mosques and the SDR premier discussed bilateral cooperation, the Gulf crisis, and Arab and international affairs. The king expressed his profound gratitude to the Somali Democratic Republic for its stance on the Gulf situation. The two sides stressed the need to covene bilateral meetings to discuss ways to promote cooperation and relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Ready To Send Troops

LD0511173390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Holy Mecca 5 Nov (SPA)—Somalia has expressed readiness to send Somali forces to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to confront Iraqi troop concentrations threatening the security of the kingdom and the region's security and stability. The Somali minister of information, Omar Abdurahman, said, in a press statement published today, "To send troops to the kingdom is to support it and reaffirm the the strength of the Arab, Islamic, and international stance to face the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and to confront the the Iraqi regime's threats to the kingdom's security."

The Somali minister refuted the claims of Saddam Husayr and his organs that plain international forces are present in the Holy Places. He added: Such allegations are prattle, which would not even fool simpleminded people because they are not true. The whole world knows that they are merely an attempt by Saddam Husayn to draw attention away from his crimes in Kuwait.

The Somali minister of information reiterated his country's position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait saying: Somalia is bound by Arab, Islamic, and international resolution. It urges Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait and allow legitimacy back. The Somali minister of information praised Somali-Saudi relations, which he described as traditional and excellent.

Premier Meets Bank Chairman

EA0511204590 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Somali Prime Minister Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar, who is in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has met the chairman of the Islamic Development Bank [IDB], Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, at the Jeddah conference center. The prime minister and the chairman discussed ways of completing development projects in Somali within their deadlines; the financing of development projects proposed by the Somali Government; and whether the bank could help Somalia finance agricultural projects. During the meeting, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, ways the bank could help Somalia boost its agricultural projects, livestock exports, and production of healthy livestock, were also discussed.

The prime minister thanked the chairman for his role in promoting cooperation between Somalia and the IDB and gave a detailed briefing on Somalia's economic situation and what had been achieved by the two sides in their joint projects.

The IDB chairman expressed gratitude for the briefing and said livestock exporters in Somalia should contact Saudi businessmen with a view to streamlining livestock exports. [passage omitted]

It was agreed that a technical committee be formed to identify new projects.

Commentary Urges Fight Against U.S., Britain

JN0511184390 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O sons of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], God's peace be upon you, O Arab strugglers everywhere, O Muslims, the soldiers of Muhammmad Bin-'Abdallah, God's blessings be upon him: The black days, the days of foreign occupation of the land of sanctities in Najd and Hejaz is continuing. The number of the soldiers of infidelity is growing and their arms arsenal is also expanding. At the same time, the call for prayers saying God is great is coming form minarets and mosques. In the call, we hear the moaning of anger, the voice of the anger of grudge, and the resounding shout for struggle. How long will you remain silent, while the pilgrimage season is approaching? How long will you remain silent, while the blessed month of Ramadan, the month of fasting during which people feel closer to God, is also approaching? How long will the swords of the Arabs and Muslims remain in their sheaths?

O brothers, we know as you do that swords were created only to deal with the enemies and to defend values, principles, ideals, and honor. Let your anger increase in defense of Islam and against the enemies of God and Islam. Let your anger increase and strike with the sword of the God's messenger, God's peace be upon him, and with the swords of the prophets' companions, the mujahidin, and the fathers and forefathers. Fight infidelity, injustice, and treason and fight Fahd, America, Britain, and the Jewish soldiers, the enemies of Islam and Arabism. We in Najd and Hejaz are awaiting your swords and your arms, and until relief arrives and their sense of honor stirs people to act, we will continue jihad against injustice and the trench of infidelity under the banner "God is great." Victory is for us, for Arabism, and for Islam.

Commentary Says U.S. Plans To Stay in Region

JN0611081990 (Clandestine) Holy Mecca Radio in Arabic 1010 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O sons of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], God's peace be upon you. The traitor of the two holy mosques has been clinging to the idea that the American forces will not stay long once the so-called Gulf crisis ends. He and officials in his regime have announced several times that the forces which have invaded the Arabian Peninsula will receive orders to leave the area. A number of officials in the regime of the traitor of the two holy mosques have also said that the Saudi territories will not be a launchpad for aggression against fraternal Iraq.

Those who follow American officials' statements will not find anything like the announcements made by the traitor of the two holy mosques and the pillars of his regime. Everyday officials in Washington make statements contradicting the allegations of the Saudi regime's officials.

The proposal made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker several weeks ago that security arrangements should be made in the region has apparently entered the implementation stage. American military officials have begun making statements about the security structure. AFP quoted General Schwarzkopf, commander of the American forces in the Gulf area, the day before yesterday as saying that he agreed with the Saudis on a very detailed defense plan to keep the American and Japanese forces under his command. General John Galvin, commander of the allied forces in Europe [NATO] also announced the day before yesterday that the possibility of establishing a permanent peaceful military structure in the Middle East should be studied.

These U.S. military statements indicate that the American forces will stay in the region for a long time, contrary to the announcements made by the traitor of the two holy mosques and his followers. How can they claim that they can secure the departure of the American forces at any time they wish? Our Arab people are capable of distinguishing truth from lies. They have known charlatans and liars in the past. The Arab awakening led by fraternal Iraq will destroy the thrones of these treasonous people who sold the land and sanctities to the occupation forces.

Senegal Delegation Confers With Army Commander

LD3110191390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1712 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 31 october, SPA—HRH Staff General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and field of operations, today received in his office the chief of staff of the Senegalese Army, Brigadier General Mamadou Mansour Seck, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier general 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Shaykh, deputy commander of the joint forces and field of operations. Issues of mutual concern were discussed during the meeting, at the end of which gifts were exchanged.

Meets General Staff Chief

LD3110191690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1719 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 31 October, SPA—The chief of general staff, Staff General Muhammad al-Hammad, received in his office today the chief of staff of the Senegalese Army, Brigadier General Mamadou Mansour Seck, and the delegation accompanying him. Issues of mutual concern were discussed during the meeting, at the end of which gifts were exchanged.

Joint Forces Commander Receives CSFR Officials

LD0311214690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theater of operations, received at his office at the Ministry of Defense today the Czechoslovak coordination delegation led by Major Gen Jiri Jindra [chief of the Department of Foreign Relations at the Czechoslovak Defense Ministry]. Discussions during the meeting covered a number of matters pertaining to the participation of the Czechslovak Armed Forces in the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia.

Belgian Foreign Trade Minister Arrives in Riyadh

LD0411221490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Nov (SPA)—The Belgian minister of foreign trade Robert Urbain, arrived in the Kingdom this evening at the head of a delegation on a three-day visit. He was welcomed at the King Khalid International Airport by the Saudi Minister of trade, Dr. Sulayman al-Salim, the Belgian ambassador to the Kingdom, and a number of Trade Ministry Officials.

United Arab Emirates

Netherlands Minister Pessimistic on Gulf Peace

JN0511212290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1835 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Dubayy, 5 Nov (WAKH)—Netherlands secretary of state for defense, Berend-Jan van Voorst tot Voorst, has expressed hope that the Iraqi president will respond to international resolutions and listen to the voice of reason so as not to harm the Iraqi people, who will be the primary losers if the Iraqi forces fail to withdraw from Kuwait as soon as possible. The Netherlands, he said, supports UN resolutions, whether on peace or war.

In a news conference here this evening at the conclusion of his visit to the United Arab Emirates, he said his country has joined world solidarity against the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and that it has joined the international forces in the Gulf to maintain world legitimacy.

He said the Arab solution cannot possibly succeed at present, but only after the Iraqi pullout from Kuwait. At that time, the Arab solution will be positive.

He said that his country has a military team specialized in applying air embargo against Iraq and that he inspected the Netherlands forces in the Gulf and assured himself about their morale. He said his country has two warships in the Gulf and that these forces will be replaced before the end of the year.

Mr. Voorst said his country has prepared a study and forwarded it to the EC countries with a view to drafting an international law or agreement to curb the export of sophisticated and humanity-threatening weapons and to set precise and tough conditions on the sale of weapons in general, so that the Saddam Husayn phenomenon may not recur—a phenomenon that has resulted from his ability to buy sophisticated weapons from the industrial world.

He said the international forces will be forced to change their defensive policy and launch the first strike if Baghdad's intransigence continues, although the United States and the region's states are eager that the first strike be directed in accordance with a UN resolution.

He said his country's views and those of the region's states are identical; namely, that the unstable situation in the region resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait cannot possibly continue.

He said the chances for a peaceful solution are getting slimmer, despite the fact that the economic embargo against Iraq has yielded positive results.

Senegal's Foreign Minister Leaves for Doha

JN0311073290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 3 Nov (WAKH)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Seydina Oumar Sy left here this morning for Doha following a three-day visit to the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Formation of 'National Defense Council' Approved

JN0111133990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council held a meeting today. Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas attended.

The Council reviewed the domestic and foreign situation and made a number of decisions. The Council also approved the formation of the National Defense Council [majlis al-difa' al-watani]. It also endorsed the Council of Minister's decision to cancel taxes on some imported and exported goods.

Moreover, the Council endorsed the agreements concluded between the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and [name of company indistinct] on oil prospecting. The Council also approved the appointment of advisers to the prime minister and other appointments to vacant positions at the prime minister's office. The Council named those to represent the Yemeni side in the Arab Libyan-Yemeni company.

The Council took note of the suggestions made by the head of the Central Bureau for Supervision and Auditing and endorsed the [word indistinct] of the Bureau.

The Council also discussed the development of Yemeni-Iranian relations and endorsed the suggestions submitted by the Foreign Ministry and the delegation of the Council of Representatives which visited the Islamic Republic of Iran recently. The Council tasked the Government and the competent ministries to follow up on the development of Yemeni-Iranian relations in the service of the two fraternal peoples and their mutual goals.

Assembly Announces Hostage Release 'Formula'

JN0311171090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—On the occasion of the start of the fall term of the Iraqi National Assembly and the beginning of the discussion on the issue of allowing Bulgarian nationals to leave or stay in Iraq, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih made the following statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The aim behind preventing some foreigners from leaving was to increase the obstacles before the evil, aggressive intentions of the U.S. Administration and its allies against Iraq, and to gain some time to give world public opinion and rational people part of the opportunity they were deprived of by the hurried attempts of those who have designs, in order to resist the goals of evil and take things gradually in the direction of logic and peace.

Now, since the important part of what we have said has been achieved—whether on the level of popular public opinion in the world, or on the level of distinguished political personalities, parties, and some governments—except the evil ones—we now believe that these humanitarian aims can be served when the foreigners enjoy the freedom to travel in accordance with a suitable formula. The suitable formula is that a number of world nations should join us in showing a desire for peace and declaring a clear position that they stand against war and against the use or threat of military force, and that they are committed to peace in solving all outstanding issues in the region in a just and equitable manner—the issues on which the UN General Assembly and the Security Council have issued resolutions, including and in particular, the Palestine issue. For this we nominate all the Security Council's five permanent member states or any two or more of the following states: France, China, the USSR, Germany, and Japan."

We are ready to agree on the appropriate arrangements if the countries we named show a serious readiness in this regard.

'Enemy' Aircraft Said To Violate Airspace

3 Nov

JN0411190390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—It has been announced here that two enemy warplanes violated Iraq's international border with the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] over an area southeast of al-Abyad yesterday morning.

An official spokesman at the Interior Ministry told INA this evening that Iraqi air defenses spotted at 1130 yesterday morning, 3 November, two enemy aircraft at an altitude of 11 km and at a speed of 720 km per hour heading toward our international borders with Najd and Hejaz.

He added that the two targets penetrated five km into our international borders at 1132 over an area southeast of the al-Abyad. Another TRSE [as received] aircraft also flew at an altitude of 17-20 km over the same area.

4 Nov

JN0511182290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Hostile aircraft coming from the direction of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] yesterday afternoon penetrated Iraq's international borders over the southwest region of the Governorate of Kuwait.

This was told to INA by an official Foreign Ministry spokesman. He said that at 1634 yesterday, 4 November, our air defenses spotted two hostile targets flying 15 km apart and at a 90-degree bearing in the direction of our international border with the lands of Najd and Hejaz over the southwest region of the Governorate of Kuwait. He said the first target was flying at an altitude of 7 km and 500 meters, with the strength of two aircraft flying [bi quwat ta'iratayn sur'atuhuma] at 750 km per hour. He explained that the two targets turned 170 degrees to the right and penetrated 3 km into our international borders. He said that our air defenses identified the target as an F-15 aircraft.

The second target was flying at an altitude of six and one half km, with the strength of two aircraft. It was identified as an F-14 aircraft. It continued to fly over our international borders in a 170-degree bearing and then veered 90 degrees.

Further on Visit of Japan's Nakasone

Joint Declaration Proposed

OW0511155790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1511 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 5 (KYODO)—Iraq's ruling Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party wants to issue a joint declaration with the visiting delegation from Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) regarding the crisis in the Persian Gulf, Japanese sources said Monday. The sources did not indicate the delegation's response to the proposal or the possible contents of such a declaration.

The Iraqis, however, are seeking an agreement with Japan over the conditions for the release of hundreds of foreign hostages being held by Iraq at unknown locations to deter military attack. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in a meeting with visiting former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Sunday, indicated that Japan should take the political initiative for achieving a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, Japanese sources accompanying Nakasone said.

Husayn cited as possible steps that either Japan or Germany and one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council should ensure that no military action would be taken against Iraq, the sources said. Nakasone urged Husayn to release all foreign hostages. He renewed his call during a meeting with the LDP delegation led by Takayuki Sato and Iraqi First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan.

The Japanese Embassy in Baghdad has given Iraq a fresh list of 14 or 15 Japanese hostages who are ill and should be released. A list of 70 Japanese hostages, including those who are elderly or ill, was presented earlier, the sources said.

Nakasone and the LDP delegation have not received any response from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz about the possible release of hostages. But the sources said they will be contacted soon by Iraqi authorities on the issue.

Nakasone Says No Troops in Gulf

JN0511203290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Japan's former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has expressed satisfaction with his meeting with leader President Saddam Husayn. He said: I exchanged with President Saddam Husayn frank opinions and viewpoints during a lengthy session of talks. I am satisfied with the results of this meeting.

This emerged in an interview he gave today to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent. Regarding a question on the many complexities of the Gulf crisis and the nature of a solution that would guarantee the security of the region and the world, Nakasone said: I believe we must exert our utmost efforts to find a peaceful solution to this crisis and spare the region the destruction that would result from the use of military force. All political leaders in the world must lead their governments and peoples toward the peaceful solution and avert war.

Answering a question on the military option being marketed by certain quarters, and the threats that would emerge from the outbreak of war, he said: This will be a (?defeat) for all humanity. All leaders in the world are required to understand fully the dangers of the use of military force and the outbreak of war. They are also required to search for a peaceful solution to this crisis.

Answering a question on the Japanese people's position on a proposed amendment to the Japanese Constitution that would allow the dispatch of troops to the Gulf, he stressed: Neither we nor the Japanese people intend to amend the Constitution or dispatch a force. The question of amending the Constitution is out of the question because the Government of Japan does not intend to amend the Constitution. Furthermore, Japanese public opinion does not want to amend the Constitution. This also goes for the members of the Japanese House of Councillors and House of Representatives.

Meets With Salih

JN0611070390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih received former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and the delegation accompanying him today.

During the meeting, attended by the chairman and members of the National Assembly's Arab and international relations committee, the two sides reviewed developments in the Arabian Gulf region and the Japanese position on them.

The Japanese delegation reiterated that the Japanese Government and people have no intention to amend the constitution in a way that would allow the dispatch of forces to the Arabian Gulf.

Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone described his meeting with leader President Saddam Husayn as fruitful, successful, and contributing to stability in the region.

Holds Discussions With 'Arafat

OW0611043290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0328 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6 KYODO—Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for a comprehensive peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis acceptable to all the nations involved, including the United States, and warned of the consequences of war in the region, Japanese officials said Tuesday.

'Arafat, in talks in Baghdad on Monday with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, said that the world has just begun to recognize the catastrophic impact of a military clash in the region.

He reiterated the PLO's stance that an Iraqi pullout from Kuwait should be linked with the overall solution of Middle East conflicts, including the Palestine-Israeli problem.

Nakasone expressed his willingness to cooperate in efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis and to bring about an early solution to the Palestine issue.

'Arafat told a press conference that he now sees less likelihood of a military clash in the Gulf, putting the chances of war at "40 percent," instead of his previously predicted "80 percent."

He said that in the U.S., calls for a peaceful solution of the crisis would increase after the ongoing elections there are over, and the possibility of peace would be further boosted.

In a separate meeting with Japanese reporters, the PLO head said he has been working for the release of Japanese nationals held hostage by Iraq.

"I have been exerting my best efforts (for the release) before and after Mr. Nakasone came to Iraq," he said, adding he has helped in the process leading to the release of citizens of Brazil, Finland, Sweden, and Greece who were detained in Iraq.

"I expect some measures will be taken also for Japanese nationals during the former prime minister's visit," 'Arafat said.

'Arafat also said Nakasone had indicated to him in their Monday meeting that there is a link between the Iraq crisis and other Middle East issues.

Resolutions by the United Nations Security Council should be implemented with the same standard on each issue, he said.

Release of 70 Japanese Likely

OW0611094690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0929 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6 KYODO—About 70 Japanese detained by Iraq, including some 20 hostages, are expected to be freed, Iraqi authorities and Japanese sources said Tuesday.

The hostages were among 139 Japanese transferred from Kuwait to Iraq after the Iraqi invasion of the oil-rich neighboring nation on August 2. About 50 other Japanese to be released are businessmen who were in Iraq at the time of the invasion and have been unable to leave the country so far.

Such a release was promised on Monday by Iraqi National Assembly Chairman Sa'di Mahdi Salih during a meeting with former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and a delegation from Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Japanese officials said.

According to the Japanese sources, about 50 Japanese, including 14 hostages, have already gathered at the Al-Mansur Melia Hotel in Baghdad.

Nakasone Thanks Saddam

JN0611100490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0934 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

During the meeting, Mr. Nakasone expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit to Iraq and talks with President Saddam Husayn. He also expressed his thanks and appreciation for the decision of Iraq to allow a large number of Japanese guests in Iraq, consisting mostly of elderly, sick, and students, to leave.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. President Saddam Husayn had received Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone the day before yesterday.

Comments on Talks With Saddam

JN0611113090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone affirmed that his meeting with President Saddam Husayn was cordial, fruitful, and successful.

In an interview published by the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today, he said that during the meeting with President Saddam Husayn they exchanged points of view regarding the current events in the Arabian Gulf region and appropriate means to develop cordial relations between Japan and Iraq and overcome the current crisis in the region.

Mr. Nakasone said he found President Saddam Husayn to be very concerned about finding a peaceful and immediate solution to the current problem in the Gulf region to remove the scourge of war from the region.

Regarding his personal impression of President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Nakasone said: I found President Saddam Husayn to be a statesman with a high degree of thought and interest in the affairs of his people. And before all this, he is a man with profound thinking and a wide knowledge on issues of concern to his country and the region. I noticed his concern regarding the necessity to speed up finding a peaceful, just, and permanent solution to all problems in the Middle East region. In his meeting with me, he concentrated on the importance of finding simultanous and immediate solutions to the current problems in the region, especially the Palestine and Lebanon questions.

Mr. Nakasone said he exchanged opinions with President Saddam Husayn on issues of mutual concern and on the important issues in the region. He said: I found him to have a deep comprehension and realization of current events in the region. We also exchanged points of view regarding Japanese-Iraqi relations and Japan's need for Iraqi oil. Our discussions were frank and honest, especially since Japan and Iraq have strong and deep friendship bonds which help us realize this goal.

What added to providing the cordial atmosphere of our meeting were the relations which joined President Saddam Husayn and myself 16 years ago when I was minister of foreign trade and industry and met with President Saddam Husayn at that time and discussed developing Japanese-Iraqi relations with him. He said the memories of our joint past are what today helped us provide a cordial basis to render our current meeting a success.

Mr. Nakasone added: I became sure that President Saddam Husayn wants a peaceful and negotiated solution to the current problem in the Arabian Gulf region. He is concerned about providing the opportunity for such a solution. He is dealing with the problem in a very concerned and serious way. However, he did affirm to me at the same time the importance of finding simultaneous and immediate solutions to the rest of the hot problems in the region, such as the Palestine and Lebanon questions. He is serious and concerned about finding simultaneous solutions to these problems together.

Mr. Nakasone said I believe the Gulf problem must be solved through peaceful negotiation away from the language of war and threats. I am confident that international cooperation could avert such a destructive war from the region. Therefore, international efforts must be made in this direction, and we must provide every possible effort to achieve this positive result. He affirmed that if war breaks out, it will be a catastrophe for everyone. There will be no winner or loser; the tragedy will affect everyone without exception.

Regarding Japan's role as a country with important interests in the region, he said: We are doing our best today and exerting every possible effort to solve this crisis and move the region away from the mouth of the volcano and the destructive war that awaits it. We want a peaceful and just solution to the problem. Therefore, we are now doing everything within our means to prevent the eruption of a war or a military confrontation among the dense military forces in the region. He asserted that if such a confrontation takes place, it will be a real catastrophe to humanity. This is the truth which every individual in our world today must learn.

Mr. Nakasone affirmed that this problem must be solved through international cooperation between the peoples and governments. Therein lies the just and peaceful solution. The international community must cooperate seriously and honestly to solve this crisis, away from the language of war and aggression.

Holds Second Round of Talks

OW0611114890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Addition to an item published in the 5 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 21, column 1, headlined "Meets Ramadan."]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 6 KYODO—Takayuki Sato, acting secretary general of the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] who is heading the party's mission, discussed the number of the Japanese to be freed and the date of their release with Iraqi authorities.

Sato told reporters that the departure of the chartered Japan Airline plane has been extended to Wednesday afternoon to carry as many Japanese hostages as possible to Japan.

The plane was originally scheduled to leave Baghdad on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Nakasone also had a second round of talks with Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan to exchange views on ways to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Nakasone, who arrived in Baghdad on Sunday at the invitation of Iraq's ruling Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and the Organization of Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity in Iraq, met Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and urged him to release all foreign hostages held by Iraqi authorities.

The LDP delegation is accompanying the former Japanese prime minister.

A total of 305 Japanese nationals, including 139 hostages, are currently being held by Iraq.

National Assembly Approves Release of Bulgarians

JN0311173390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—In light of the directives of leader President Saddam Husayn, the National Assembly held a session tonight to discuss allowing the Bulgarian nationals hosted by the Iraqi people to leave Iraq or stay as they wish.

After lengthy discussions, the Assembly approved by a majority vote allowing these citizens to leave Iraq or stay, as they like. The session was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd al-Faysal, a number of Italian and Irish parliamentarians, and correspondents of world television networks.

The subject of the Bulgarian nationals was the first to be discussed by the National Assembly at the beginning of its second fall term.

Foreign Reporters Visit Hostages 2 Nov

NC0211185090 Paris AFP in English 1754 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 2 (AFP)—Western and Japanese nationals held as "human shields" by Iraq in key strategic installations were visited Friday for the first time in three months by correspondents of foreign media based in Baghdad.

The visit was organised by the Iraqi Information Ministry in response to accusations this week by U.S. President George Bush who said he was "fed up" with Iraq's detention of foreigners saying they were kept in "inhuman" condition.

All the hostages, known in Iraq as "guests", told reporters they were being "well treated" by the authorities.

The correspondents, including an Agence France-Presse reporter, met foreigners of several nationalities, including Britons, Japanese, Germans, Australians and U.S. nationals.

They were seen at key installations located outside the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

The correspondents were asked by the authorities not to reveal the exact location where the "human shields" were held.

Some 400 Westerners and Japanese, among nearly 4,000 foreigners detained in Iraq and Kuwait, are being held at key installations to deter an attack in the aftermath of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The visit was the first of its kind since the invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait by Iraq.

Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim on Thursday dismissed remarks by Mr. Bush that the foreigners were being harmed in any way.

He told a news conference in Baghdad that "Iraq's guests" were being provided with "all the means necessary for their comfort" in keeping with Arabic and Islamic traditions of hospitality.

Iraq has invited the relatives of the "human shields" to visit them for Christmas and the New Years, but Washington and London have officially rejected the offer.

Mr. Jasim reiterated the offer on Friday and said that families wishing to come to Iraq "will be well-treated and free to leave."

First-Person Account

JN0211212590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The foreign nationals distributed among vital Iraqi economic and military establishments, whose departure Iraq is preventing, are one of the symbols of the current crisis. Are they guests or hostages? This is not the question that engages their minds. I saw some of them today in two vital Iraqi establishments. Their minds are preoccupied with peace, because it is the guarantee for ensuring their own safety.

I met seven Americans, and a number of Britons and Germans in the two establishments and at a hospital. They reside in houses, and they have no complaints about their residence, food, or treatment. Their position under surveillance is not an easy thing, but it leaves them freedom of movement in the homes, gardens, and playgrounds surrounding the place. In one of the two establishments, they live among a number of Iraqi families. The surveillance and protection are for the surroundings, and there is fear that the Americans might imagine that they are able to break from Iraq's decision to detain them, according to a self-confident official in charge of protection.

For them, time passes very slowly. Their only activities are reading, physical exercises, smoking, listening to the radio, and long discussions about their fate, which is connected to the crisis.

Their basic demands are to return home, to travel to their families. Their minor demands are more letters, more novels, and books for reading.

The Germans are optimistic about the impending visit by Willy Brandt. The Americans are not optimistic because of the lack of dialogue and messengers between Washington and Baghdad. One American is happy because he is one of four [Americans] who will leave for their country. The man, (Randall Cream), is in the hospital because he is suffering from a chronic stomach ailment. He condemned preventing medicine from reaching Iraq.

All those I met hoped to return home before Christmas, that the crisis would end peacefully, and that President Bush would accept dialogue instead of military confrontation. The Americans asked me to reassure their families. Some of them are: (Mill Hill), (Mick McGuire), (Harry Darrel Edward), and (Randall Samson). They are fine, and want their folks to be reassured.

As I left them, they were choosing suitable winter clothing in terms of color and size. An American lady today visited her British husband in one of the establishments, and the Iraqi Foreign Ministry considered the U.S. State Department position on the issue of visits to those in Iraq by their families as a position commensurate with the language of threats used by President Bush and which pushes issues toward military escalation.

Baghdad TV Airs Film

JN0211215790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2138 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—Baghdad television this evening aired on its first channel a film on the visit by foreign press and news agency correspondents to a group of Iraq's foreign guests, who are staying at strategic Iraqi installations.

The film showed the normal lives led by the foreign guests, as well as the care they receive from Iraq.

Iraq's guests expressed to the journalists their appreciation for the good treatment and generous hospitality they are receiving from the Iraqis. They also expressed their rejection of war and their desire for peace to prevail, and for all issues and crises to be resolved through peaceful means.

'Guests' Talk to Reporters

JN0311060090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Iraq's foreign guests at strategic installations told the REUTER, AFP, AP, Radio Monte Carlo, and Voice of America correspondents who visited them yesterday that they are receiving good humanitarian treatment during their stay in Iraq. They said that their health is good and that their only complaint is that they long for their families.

Iraq's guests also told the correspondents that they have enough food, that they do not feel that they are in need of any particular kind of food, and that they can get food very easily the way they want it. They added that they have a lot of material to read, that they exchange books among themselves, and that they practice all kinds of sports. They said that they wanted peace to prevail and the so-called Gulf crisis solved peacefully so that they would return home and rejoin their families.

Former German Chancellor Arrives for Visit

JN0511214290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2128 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Willy Brandt, former German chancellor and honorary leader of the Social Democratic Party, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA, the former German chancellor said he was pleased by his visit to Iraq. He said that he would meet with Iraqi officials to discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf and to exert efforts to find a peaceful solution to the current tension in the region.

He said he would discuss issues of common interest to Iraq and Germany.

Irish Parliamentary Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN0311102190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] The Irish parliamentary delegation led by Michael Higgins, member of the Irish Parliament, arrived in Baghdad last night [2 November] on a three-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the member of the Irish Parliament said that the delegation will meet with several Iraqi officials to discuss developments in the Gulf.

Meets With Health Minister

JN0411210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id today received the visiting Irish parliamentary delegation headed by Michael Higgins.

The health minister said that the inhuman Security Council resolutions blocking foodstuffs, medicine, and children's milk are a fundamental breach of the international declaration on children issued by the international conference on childhood.

Michael Higgins expressed the readiness of Irish health companies to cooperate with the Iraqi Health Ministry and continue the joint cooperation programs in health-related fields. He also referred to the close cooperation between the two countries and said that Ireland is eager to promote it.

He added that his country is exerting every effort to get other countries to use dialogue to solve their problems and avert the use of military force. He also explained that differences in political viewpoints among states should not harm nations' health and safety.

Ambassador to UK Says No Release of Irish

JN0211182590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] London, 2 Nov (INA)—'Azmi al-Salihi, Iraqi ambassador to Britain and Ireland, told Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins during their meeting in Dublin today that Iraq will not release the Irish nationals until circumstances improve.

It is noteworthy that Iraq is hosting a number of British and Irish nationals among the people at several vital installations who are serving as messengers of peace to curb the aggressive American inclination kindled by Thatcher and some of Washington's allies and agents.

Iraq has many times stated its willingness to allow its foreign guests to leave its territory if it receives guarantees that no aggression will be committed against it.

'Aziz Meets With 'Arafat on Palestinian Issues

JN0611121890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with president of the state of Palestine Mr. Yasir 'Arafat.

They discussed current events in the region and the threats the Arab nation is being subjected to due to the foreign military presence on Arab land. They also discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question and the valiant Palestinian people's determination to continue their intifadah against the Zionist oppression campaigns.

The meeting was attended by the director of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry and 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member and ambassador of the State of Palestine in Baghdad.

Saddam Discusses 'Conspiracy' Against Arab Power

JN0311123190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has declared that the conspiracy against the Arab nation is aimed at the elements of power in the nation, irrespective of the whereabouts of the elements of power and capabilities.

During his meeting today with the delegation of the general secretariat of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU], which is participating in the ninth general conference of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, President Saddam Husayn added: From the premise of this interpretation, the conspiracy targetted 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime in Egypt, and on the basis of this interpretation too, we regrettably now deal with Husni who wants to place Arab Egypt in the trench of Zionism and America.

His excellency added that with respect to the one who tries to conspire against the nation, instead of bowing our heads to him and bargaining with him on the nation's sanctities, we should cut off his head. This is what has taken place. We have no other choice. As for dignity, honor, national sovereignty, pride, and Islam, they diametrically conflict with all this. The Arabs now face the inevitable restoration of their historical role which God wanted for them and which they deserve as a genuine nation that has a role to play in the life of mankind and its national course.

His excellency said: We aspire to peace, a peace under which the armies of the despots will leave our land and holy places and will let the Arabs solve their problems, as they are better qualified to do so.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that the cause of our mujahid, struggler, and oppressed Palestinian people is at the forefront of the peace to which we aspire.

His excellency said that real humanitarianism is to save the women and the children in Palestine from the daily injustice, repression, and killings the Zionist gang carries out on the land of Palestine, and not to restore a corrupt group to power as they hope for. What they want is too distant and will not materialize, God willing. [passage omitted]

Assembly Speaker on Franco-Soviet Pledge

PM0211151090 Paris LE FIGARO in French
1 Nov 90 p 4

[Unnamed special correspondent dispatch on interview with National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih: "'Equal Chances' for War or Peace"]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraq could agree to dissociate the Gulf crisis from the other Middle East conflicts, provided its settlement falls within an Arab framework. National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, who is also one of the seven current members of the Revolution Command Council, told us yesterday that an Arab plan "is preferable to any other if we want to resolve only the Gulf crisis. If we want to resolve all the Middle East problems, however, everybody must be involved." Mr. Salih explained that with regard to finding a solution Iraq is counting not so much on the Arab League as on the personal involvement of several heads of state in the region who are "leaders of the Arab nation."

However, he confirmed Iraq's rejection of the Arab plan put forward last weekend by Mr. Primakov, Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy. "Any approach which talks of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait outside a comprehensive settlement is not right." Thus Sa'di Mahdi Salih regards the chances of peace and war as equal at present.

Message to Mitterrand and Gorbachev

The National Assembly speaker, entrusted by Saddam Husayn with "looking after the foreign guests" in Iraq, also confirmed to us that his country had proposed to release all the foreigners in exchange for a Franco-Soviet stance against war. "There was indeed such a message to Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Gorbachev, and that reflects Iraq's real desire. We will allow other foreigners to leave as soon as we are sure that war is no longer imminent. When Bush announces that he will not use force, or when France and the Soviet Union guarantee the search for a political solution, we will be able to make such a decision. Our main hopes rest with France and the USSR, which we accept as interlocutors because they are objective in their search for a solution."

Jasim Says Baker Declined Invitation to Baghdad

JN0611065490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
0517 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] In Baghdad, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stated that Iraq resorted to military action only after Kuwait refused to discuss any of its complaints.

The Iraqi information minister referred to the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Gulf tour, saying: Iraq attempted to contact the U.S. Government through diplomatic channels to extend an invitation to Baker to visit Iraq. However, the invitations were constantly rejected.

The Iraqi information minister added that President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August is negotiable. He expressed Iraq's readiness to discuss all regional problems without exception, including the overall Middle East situation.

Bush Statements Show 'Multisided Impasse'

LD0411223590 Baghdad International Service
in English 2100 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Welcome dear listeners, to our commentary: The U.S. President George Bush didn't stop releasing statements and (?talks) since he embarked on embodying his schemes and aggressive occupation intentions at the dispatch of his troops and fleets to Arab Gulf regions. The recent Bush's statements are reflecting a big deal of justifications that signal out his multi-sided impasse.

When the United States sent its troops into Saudi Arabia it said it was defending Saudi Arabia against a possible Iraqi attack. U.S. officials have said that their troops in

Saudi Arabia were defensive and the U.S. has no intention to attack Iraq. However, recent reports and statements say the U.S. was pouring offensive troops and equipment into the Arab holy territories of Najd and Hejaz. This has made it clear that the U.S. is preparing to launch an attack against Iraq.

Bush is from time to time uttering void statements that he will never compromise on the issue of Kuwait as if Kuwait is one of the American states.

The province of Kuwait is a small area severed from Iraq some time ago by Britain. And now Iraq is determined to bring it back to its motherland. So neither Bush nor Thatcher have the right to utter any word in this regard.

Arabs themselves could solve their problems and Bush and (?witch) Thatcher have complicated the issue and made it a crisis.

If the U.S. and Britain are shedding tears on the international [word indistinct] why haven't applied the measures which they did against Iraq to Israel which is daily practising oppressive measures against the Palestinian people? The United States has stood in face of all bids to save the region these ravages of war. In fact, the Bush administration is turning a blind eye to peace efforts because it persists in harboring intentions of aggression against Iraq.

The United States promoted anti-Iraq sentiment long before the current crisis in the Gulf started. It led a vicious campaign against Iraq working in coordination with its allies and satellite regimes in the Arab region. However, Iraq is not intimidated neither by Bush and Thatcher's statements nor by their fleets and military builup in the Arab Gulf and peninsula. And Iraq is ready for the duel and it challenges their schemes and intrigues.

Quayle Statements Termed 'Irresponsible'

JN0511141090 Baghdad INA in English 1125 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov.5, INA—One of the merits of the Gulf crisis, if any, is that it shows how ignorant and irresponsible some "civilized" U.S. and more Western leaders can be. Remember Dan Quayle is the U.S. vice-president, though a figurehead, this helpless figurehead is rarly allowed to speak. In one such rare occasion on Wednesday, Quayle said Iraq should not be allowed to keep its ballistic missiles and chemical weapons even if it "withdraws...troops from Kuwait."

The playboy vice-president did not stop at that, but in an impolite and arrogant term described President Saddam Husayn, the most respected and prominent Arab leader, as a "terrorist."

Added to an earlier similar statement by British Premier Margaret Thatcher, Quayle's statement reveals some important information being carefully kept as classified until recently by the United States and Britain: The actual reason behind the present U.S.-led military buildup in the Arab Gulf is neither to "protect" Saudi Arabia nor to "defend international legitimacy."

Among others, the main aim of the Anglo-American anti-Iraq buildup and alliance is to prevent the emergence of military balance between the Arabs, led by Iraq, and Israel, generously financed and unwaveringly supported by both Washington and London.

Both the U.S. And Britain have apparently come out uninterested in maintaining peaceful and secure international order as aspired by the entire world after the end of the cold war and the start of an East- West detente. The two arch-colonial powers seem to be determined to push ahead with implementing their imperialist strategies to dominate the Middle East region. With the absence of the post World War II international rival power as represented in the Soviet Union and the dissolved socialist bloc, the U.S. and Britain seem to have nothing to fear in carrying out their schemings. To serve their interests, London and Washington show unlimited determination to keep Israel part and parcel of their alliance, provided that the racist Jewish state perform the role of a forward Anglo-American colonial bastion in the Middle East. Hence, the United States and Britain appear ready to go even into a destructive war to maintain Israel's military superiority over the Arabs as would render Tel Aviv best serve their interest.

One cannot but strongly doubt the publicised goals of the anti- Iraq military buildup in the Gulf. In fact, the Western buildup in the region has not been provoked by the Iraqi-Kuwaiti merger in August at all. Neither the anti-Iraq blockade started because of the Gulf crisis, nor the hostile anti-Iraq media and political campaign seem an offshoot of this crisis. The actual Anglo-American hostile drive started practically in August 1988, when the Gulf war ended and Iraq emerged as a strong victorious military power raising fears in Israel of a powerful Arab challenge which would eventually halt Israeli expansionist schemings.

Following the ceasefire in the Gulf war, a media and official Israeli-American-British campaign against Iraq was unleashed. Alleged Iraqi "doomsday" gun affair and the "nuclear triggers" issue drummed up by the American and British media are still fresh in memory.

The anti-Iraq alliance is evidently of the opinion that a strong Iraq is a serious threat to Israel. So, they seem to be in agreement on doing anything to eliminate, or at least weaken, Iraq's military might. This can well mean that, if the U.S.-British alliance ignited war against Iraq, it would be a war of the two countries on behalf of Israel. In other words, tens of thousands of American and British boys will die in Arabian deserts just to see that "dear" Israel is secure and powerful at the expense of the Arabs.

Is Israel's security worth a major genocide engulfing hundreds of thousands of American and British young soldiers? Wouldn't it be better for both to pressure, and even force if necessary, Israel into accepting the rights of the Arabs to live in peace as a free nation, instead of arming the racist Zionist state to the teeth and encouraging it to ignore international norms and U.N. Charters? These questions are best answered by leaders of both the United States and Britain, and it is quite doubtful they are able at present to give convincing and true answers.

It is too early to conclude whether other Western nations have discovered the real intentions behind the U.S.-British ploy. But the course of events in this respect seems to be positive. A considerable number of European and big power leaders are now breaking away from the U.S.-British hegemony and professing peace and diplomacy as a course to settle the Gulf crisis, rather than threats of armed aggression. Indications are that other Western leaders would soon find out for themselves the untold side of the U.S.-British game.

To achieve peace in the Gulf, we are in need of mature, wise and responsible leaders, not childish and ignorant beginner-politicians like Dan Quayle. Seemingly, Quayle needs many political lessons to learn. First and foremost, he should know officials usually pay for statements, because such official statements are not tax-free talks. One cannot help wondering that, with such unsuitable leadership characteristics, wouldn't Quayle look more like an American vice than a U.S. vice-president?

Ramadan Denounces U.S., UK Human Rights 'Claims'

JN0511163690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1555 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, received today Antonio Mario Rotendo, head of the Argentina's Friendship and Peace Organization and deputy head of the Friendship and Peace Organization in Latin America [name and title as received].

The RCC member stressed Iraq's clear, serious, and practical peace policy and Iraq's refusal to succumb to the United States' aggressive and extortionate policy. He said that current events have clearly exposed the falsity of claims of the United States, Britain, and their allies concerning human rights and the freedom of peoples through their use of military force and economic blockade to impose hegemony on peoples and interfere in their domestic affairs to usurp their will and wealth.

The first deputy prime minister referred to the U.S. and British role in the loss of the rights of the Palestinian people, who are still being murdered and expelled from their land by the occupying Zionists.

Antonio Mario Rotendo hailed President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative and the principles it embodies. He said the initiative is fair and comprehensive and is intended to achieve peace in the region. He expressed his admiration for President Saddam Husayn's courage and his struggle for legitimacy, justice, and freedom and to confront all types of tyranny and aggression. He added that the Gulf crisis is an Arab issue that must be dealt with within the Arab context, and underlined the peoples' rejection of the policies of hegemony and the use of military force.

Paper Warns of Military Action Against Arabs

JN0511090690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Nov (INA)—The newspaper, AL-QADISIYAH, has stressed that the coming most crucial battle of all will center around Palestine's Arab identity and the liberation of the Islamic sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], holy Jerusalem, and the Arab resources from the control of the corrupt oil princes.

In its editorial today under the headline "Talk About Confidence and Capability," the newspaper says that these pan-Arab issues, foremost of which is the usurpation of Arab Palestine and the sufferings of our Palestinian Arab people at the hands of the Zionist occupation, are the only bases for the realization of a permanent, just, and comprehensive peace in the region. They are also the hotbeds that will explode the war. Both these issues are dependent on the international community forcing Bush to abandon his aggressive course and tendency toward igniting the war and leading the region and world into a dark tunnel.

The paper notes that Iraq seeks peace; not the peace preferred by Bush and the old lady of Britain's Thatcher, but as President Saddam Husayn said in his speech, the peace where the armies of the tyrants leave our land and sanctities and leave the Arabs to solve their problems, which they are more capable of doing themselves. The question of our struggling, militant, and oppressed Palestinian people is at the forefront of the peace we aspire for.

The paper says that this Iraqi stand on the national and pan-Arab issues cannot be budged from its principles even if we are forced to fight and wage a war, not from a position of experiment but from the position of need to defend the sovereignty and honor of Iraq and the Arab nation. AL-QADISIYAH stresses that Iraq, as noted by President Saddam Husayn, believes it is necessary for it to strike at any side or party irrespective of its oppressive force, if this side or party attempts to conspire against the Arab nation. The era of dealing with the Arabs from a position of superiority and double standards has gone, never to return. With the presence of the symbol leader, the nation now holds the reins itself and is ready to sacrifice to the maximum to retrieve its usurped rights.

The paper adds: If war occurs as a result of the U.S. and Western conspiracy and because of traitors such as Fahd and Husni by striking the Arab nation's elements of power and capability, our counterattack will be destructive and will not be limited to securing our country's sovereignty from Zakho to the sea; nay, it will extend to striking the invaders and the dens of evil everywhere which support them.

AL-QADISIYAH says that Iraq can do nothing but warn and caution against any military or aggressive action against the Arab nation so that the world and the region can then avert the horrors of a destructive war.

It concludes its editorial by saying that if Bush, Thatcher, and the traitors attempt the course of death, they can only be reminded of the long patient spirit of the Iraqis during the war; it is still quite fresh in the memory.

Defense Ministry Calls Up Further Reserves

JN0411163590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1520 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Iraqi Mobilization and Statistics Directorate at the Defense Ministry has issued Communique No. 3 for the year 1990. Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Communique No. 3 for the year 1990 issued by the Mobilization and Statistics Directorate at the Defense Ministry:

1. Based on Clause C of Paragraph 1 and 3 of Article 15 of the amended military service Law No. 65 for the year 1969, it has been decided to call up retired officers of the comrades' reserve courses who have not been informed up until now because their addresses were incomplete or their places of residence had been changed, and who belonged to the following forces: Armored, infantry, artillery, communications, military engineering, administration, electro-mechanical engineering, logistics and transportation, aircraft resistance [word indistinct].

2. Those who are in Iraq should join these forces' schools within seven days from 10 November 1990 to 16 November 1990. Those who are abroad should report to embassies, missions, or military attaches within 15 days beginning from the abovementioned date so their cases can be determined.

3. Those who have reached retirement age, who have retired for health reasons, or who have medical reports recommending that they work in stationary units will be exempted from the call.

4. This communique shall be considered official notification to all ministries, departments that are not affiliated to ministries, the socialist sector, and the mixed and private sectors to inform their employees covered by this communique in order to implement it.

[Signed] The staff brigadier general, the head of mobilization and statistics.

Retired Officers Urged To Rejoin

NC0411203290 Paris AFP in English 1952 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 4 (AFP)—Iraq on Sunday called on retired officers who are members of the ruling Baath party to rejoin the armed forces next Saturday. A defense ministry communique outlined the categories of personnel affected by the recall, which included chemical weapons and anti-aircraft specialists.

President Saddam Husayn, who chaired several meetings last week of his senior commanders, warned on Tuesday that the United States could be preparing an attack in the coming days. The defense ministry's announcement Sunday excluded officers with medical problems and gave those currently outside Iraq 15 days to report for duty.

Iraq on September 6 called up four categories of reserve officers, just over a month after its troops invaded Kuwait. The operation was widely condemned internationally and triggered a huge deployment of U.S. and other forces in the Gulf region.

Paper Discusses U.S., Zionist, British Motives

JN0411114890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Nov (INA)—The AL-QADISIYAH political, military daily has asserted that the governments of some countries in the world have been carried away by the frantic U.S. campaign against Iraq, in which the United States is employing the carrot and stick method and the logic of agents.

In its editorial today, the paper says: The proof of this is the fracture in the coalition against Iraq and the differences which surfaced publicly between more than one international party and the trends of the domineering U.S. policy, in addition to the continuous assertions by effective forces on the international scene which indicate that resolving the Gulf problem does not necessarily require a fierce war which will spare nothing in the entire region, as the United States and the parties which are pushing it to this destructive action seek.

The paper highlights what all the countries of the world know and are aware of; namely, that any war in the region will inflict severe damage to the interests of these countries and threaten security and stability in the world, pointing, in this regard, to the unholy trinity which forms the real spearhead which wants to drag the world into the maelstrom of a destructive war, as President Saddam Husayn pointed out in his interview with the U.S. Cable News Network, CNN.

The paper explains the motives of each party of this unholy trinity, pointing in this regard to the motives of U.S. President Bush to launch a war, which can be explained as part of the imperialist trend and its deep-rooted hostility toward any signs of power or independence in the Arab region which threaten imperialist monopoly of Arab wealth and oil.

The paper also underscores the war motives of the Zionist entity which thrives on the elements and manifestations of Arab disintegration and weakness, and which seeks to confuse the trenches of fighting once more.

The paper goes on to say: As for the stand and motives of British Prime Minister Thatcher and its advocating of war, this issue needs patient consideration. For this old woman who is enthusiastic about war sent only some thousands of its forces. She thus wants to fight until the last American soldier. This, the paper adds, reveals a dirty domestic British game played by Thatcher to cover up for her domestic problems and the worsening problems of her country.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes: There is a common denominator which groups this unholy trinity; that is, hostility to Arabs, Islam, Muslims, and the desire to dominate the wealth of the Arab nation and control the strategic position of the Arab homeland to control world routes so as to impose hegemony on international trade.

Report of Israel Embargo Violation Ridiculed

JN0411121790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (INA)—An official spokesman for the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo has ridiculed the report published by one of the weekly Egyptian papers to the effect that the Zionist entity has broken the international embargo imposed on Iraq.

The spokesman said, in a press release today, that we would not have replied to such cheap claims and lies which are not even worthy of attention, had it not been for the deliberate campaign of deception and lies targeting Iraq which is undertaken by some known parties to distort and undermine Iraq's reputation.

The spokesman added: Let it be known to these parties that the Arab masses are not gullible to believe such lies which can no longer deceive anyone. Besides, the masses can, through their awareness, differentiate between honest pan-Arab positions and the suspect stands which are adopted by some parties.

Saddam, Top Aides Discuss 'Southern Iraq'

JN0311191790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization and acting oil minister; and a number of the Armed Forces General Command members. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss part of our forces' operations theater in southern Iraq.

Minister Vows 'Never' To Negotiate on Kuwait

NC0411181390 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 4 (AFP)—Iraq vowed on Sunday that it would never under any circumstances negotiate the status of Kuwait.

Iraq "will never, under any condition, negotiate on Kuwait," Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim told a press conference here. "I tell you as an Iraqi, as an official and as a minister: Kuwait is an integral part of Iraq, its 19th province, and we will never withdraw."

Foreign Minister Ready for Peace in Mideast

JN0511160490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Nov 90 p 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES"; by Jumanah Halasa]

[Text] Amman—Iraq remains ready for an "equitable peace settlement" to the Gulf crisis if such a solution comes in the context of resolving all other problems in the region, but it is also prepared for a "long struggle" if the United States and Britain opt for war, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said Saturday.

'Aziz, who paid a brief visit to Jordan to deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Husayn, said his visit also aimed at briefing the King on Iraq's perceptions of the latest developments in the region ahead of the Monarch's visit to Europe which began Sunday.

"The two leaders always exchange views and information on the latest developments in the region," 'Aziz told the Jordan Times in an interview at the airport shortly before his departure. "We have had a lot of visits in Baghdad and a lot of exchange of views, and we wanted to brief His Majesty on what we have heard and what we have said. His Majesty is also planning a visit abroad and we wanted to put him in the picture and also to know his impression," he said. The King left for Paris Sunday on a visit for talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and other European leaders on Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi foreign minister described U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as "warmongers," and said: "They are the two main leaders who decide whether to go to war or to peace."

Reaffirming Iraq's desire for a settlement of all problems in the Middle East, 'Aziz also appeared to take a jab at Egypt and other Arab countries which have contributed troops to the multinational forces arrayed aginst Iraq in Saudi Arabia. "As far as Iraq and the Arab world (are) concerned, **especially the responsible governments and leaders,** our choice has always been peace," he said. What is desired, he said, is "a peaceful settlement of all issues and problems of the region, starting with the Palestinian problem, the plight of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories, Lebanon and other social and political problems and complications in our region."

"If they (the U.S. and Britain) want to address those problems in a manner to reach agreeable, just solutions and settlements, that's our choice; there is no doubt about that. But if they want war... and aggression, then we have to defend ourselves, and prepare ourselves for a long struggle."

'Aziz said public statements by Bush indicate that the U.S. president is opting for war to resolve the Gulf crisis. He accused Bush of "pushing for the extreme."

In an indirect renewal of Baghdad's rejection of Bush's demand for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, 'Aziz said the U.S. president had "made a number of conditions, which he knows we and the wise people who follow the situation conclude (that) are impossible to implement."

"So why should he put himself in such a corner?" 'Aziz asked. "He deleberately puts himself in a corner (and) that means he is planning for aggression," he said.

'Aziz said the U.S. and its allies should know that "the greater part of the Arab World and the Arab Nation, including Iraq, is ready for an equitable peace settlement to all the problems of the region."

"They should not isolate one issue, select and concentrate only on one issue because their interests... illegitimate interests... are involved," 'Aziz said. "They have to address the real issues which have been the source of problems that we have bben suffering from. They have to address it genuinely and seriously."

'Aziz pledged that if such an attitude was forthcoming from the U.S. and its allies, then "they will find (that) our contribution will be serious and genuine."

'Aziz, who flew into and out of Amman in a small Iraqi Airways plane which used the Marka Airport, was seen off by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Foreign Ministery Secretary General Mu'tasim Bilbeisi, other senior officials and the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan, Nuri al-Wayyis.

Return of Political, Economic Effectiveness Viewed

JN0511140490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that what was achieved on 2 August was not merely a national achievement realized by the Iraqis to return the southern part of their homeland, but a pan-Arab achievement which returned the economic and political effectiveness of the Arab map.

The newspaper, in its editorial today, says that what was achieved by Iraq destroyed the American wager on the small agents among the Arab rulers who were appointed to carry out the U.S. tasks. It also shook the very bases of the Zionist entity—an entity which is now in the stage of impasse, a stage that will only end with the termination of this entity, or that this entity's termination will bring to an end.

The paper affirms that the Arabs will enter the battle, as willed by the Arab nation, represented by the Iraqis who have chosen this vanguard position, and not as the United States wishes through its international dictatorship, which begins with international legitimacy devoid of its legitimacy under pressure of the U.S. belligerence that does not stop at dictating to its agents and allies stands and policies that leave no room for formulations or statements, and which works at pushing half its armed forces into the battle arena with Iraq.

The newspaper concludes its editorial by saying that we know the size of this battle and how many troops the aggressive invaders have massed for it. We also know that we are the stronger, not only according to technical standards and measures but because we are fighting the battle with the nation's determination and belief and because we are defending our country, dignity, and future in our land and waters.

Reportage on Reaction to Me'ir Kahana Murder

Shamir Condemns Deed

TA0611091590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has sharply condemned the nefarious murder of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, stressed that even people who disagreed with Rabbi Kahana's political credo were shocked by the villainous deed. He called on all sectors of the public to show restraint and responsibility to prevent more acts of violence.

Finance Minister Appeals to U.S.

TA0611095790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The murder of Rabbi Kahana illustrates the fact that we are threatened even outside the borders of Israel, in every corner of the world. This was Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i's reaction to Kahana's murder. Moda'i issued an appeal to the United States:

[Begin Moda'i recording] Perhaps now our great friend over the sea, within whose territory and under whose legal responsibility this murder took place, will once and for all learn to draw the necessary conclusions. It is one thing to proffer advice to others and another thing to safeguard its humane and legal guarantees within its own confines. It is easy to offer advice. [end recording]

Minute of Silence in Knesset

TA0611120090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has called on the public to show restraint in the wake of the murder of Rabbi Kahana and not to indulge in acts of violence.

Sharon condemned the Likud Knesset members [MK's] who were absent from the Knesset last night, causing the defeat of the proposal to strip Muhammad Mi'ari of his parliamentary immunity for meeting PLO leaders.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 6 November reports that in reaction to Kahana's murder, Foreign Minister David Levi called on "the United States and other democratic countries to act decisively against signs of terror within their territory. We must recall that the laws of terror have no moral or political boundaries, the foreign minister said."]

The Knesset Presidium has decided to open this afternoon session of the plenum with a minute's silence in memory of Rabbi Kahana. MK's from the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] communists told the Voice of Israel reporter that they will absent themselves from the hall and, even if they are there, they will not honor his memory by standing.

Police in Israel this morning took a number of measures to prevent acts of revenge in the wake of the assassination of Rabbi Kahana. Police units were reinforced at known trouble spots, in particular places where Arab workers from the territories gather before going to jobs in Israel.

Police also said they had intensified their surveillance of members of the KAKH movement.

Party Leaders Comment

TA0611080090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Here are more reactions to the Kahana assassination: The Tehiya's Yuval Ne'eman, who is the minister of energy and infrastructure, science, and technology, expressed shock and said that until now, our enemies have been content with murdering any Arab leader suspected of contacts with Israel. Today they murdered a Jewish public figure. Deputy Science Minister Ge'ula Kohen, who also belongs to the Tehiya, said there was a symbolic connection between Me'ir Kahana's murder and the continued sanctioning of Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari's activity. Kohen said that this demands that the government conduct immediate and practical reflections on its path.

MK Rehav'am Ze'evi, the head of Moledet, said that the path of political assassination is harmful and deserves condemnation. Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi said that the murder exposes the fanaticism of Arab terror and the hypocrisy of the Israeli political system. Hanegbi asserted that while MK Darawshah [Arab Democratic Party] has the right to act on behalf of the PLO, Me'ir Kahana was not even given the right to live. MK Avraham Ravitz, head of the Degel Hatora faction, sharply condemned the murder and said that although Kahana did things his own way, his intentions were founded on the love of Israel and Eretz Yisra'el. Degel Hatora called for responsible behavior in order to prevent further bloodshed. The Agudat Yisra'el faction sent condolences to Rabbi Kahana's family and called on security officials to deploy in Israel and throughout the world in order to prevent the murder of Israeli political figures.

The Shinuy Movement also condemned the murder. MK Avraham Poraz said that Shinuy abhors Kahana's ideology but spurns all politically motivated violence. The Peace Now Movement sharply condemned the murder and called on the security forces to immediately take measures to preclude any further extremism in Jewish-Arab relations. Peace Now declared that despite all its opposition to the KAKH Movement, political murder constitutes a red line, and the crossing of this red line is dangerous to all sides. CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] MK Yosi Sarid asserted that there is nothing more dangerous than personal terror. He stated that there is no justification whatsoever for murder and certainly not for murder in reaction to political ideas, no matter how repugnant.

Arab Councils Issue Communique

TA0611100490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Israeli Committee of Arab Local Councils has issued a communique declaring that the Arabs regret every drop of blood spilled, regardless of whether it be Jewish or Arab. The leaders of the Arab local councils pointed out that they did not countenance the positions espoused by Kahana, who, they asserted, was a dyed-in-the-wool racist. The murder in New York, however, is another link in the circle of violence which will not end until peace—a peace that will guarantee Israel's security, as well as the establishment of a Palestinian state—is achieved in the region.

Reporters Survey Response

TA0611062690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Studio talk between moderator Me'ir Einstein and correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Text] [Gus] Here are some initial reactions to the assassination of Rabbi Me'ir Kahana which were collected over the telephone during the last few minutes. The primary reaction, of course, is amazement. All the people I spoke to learned about the assassination from me. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Arab Journalists Association in Judaea and Samaria, said that Me'ir Kahana was burned by the very fire he preached. Faysal al-Husayni said that violence and calls to violence will not lead anywhere and immediately added that the security forces must make sure that Me'ir Kahana's murder will not lead to acts of revenge and not have an adverse effect on the status of Israeli Arabs and Arabs in the territories.

Another reaction was that of Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an: Kan'an asserted that he is against murder in principle; however, Me'ir Kahana was not a man who sought justice and truth. He was a terrorist, Kan'an asserted, a terrorist who lived by the sword. Kan'an said that he had imagined something like this would happen and concluded by saying that Me'ir Kahana was a victim of his own violent slogans.

[Einstein] Arye, we have heard that the police are deploying in Israel in case of riots resulting from this assassination. How is the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deploying to confront similar reactions in the territories?

[Gus] Yes, similar steps have been taken in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It is not difficult to imagine what could happen in light of the already tense situation. It is not difficult to imagine what could happen if Me'ir Kahana's supporters were to react with force and violence to his murder. Since this morning, the military administration has been prepared to meet any possible violence. Soldiers have been given clear orders to be on the alert, to keep a close watch on potential trouble spots. Reinforcements have also been sent to such places. The military administration will try to maintain the daily routine, but also prevent friction between Jews and Arabs, especially in places that are ripe for such friction: for example, towns such as Qiryat 'Arba or Hebron, where there is a large Jewish populace, and of course, sites holy to both religions. In Judaea and Samaria, that would be the Makhpela Cave, Joseph's tomb in Nabulus, Rachel's tomb in Bethlehem, and similar sites.

[Einstein] Thank you very much.

KAKH Spokesman Comments

TA0611065290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The KAKH Movement has declared that Rabbi Me'ir Kahana was murdered only because he was devoted to the truth, something that was anathema to his political enemies. The KAKH Movement said it is symbolic that Rabbi Kahana was assassinated on the very day the Knesset decided not to revoke the parliamentary immunity of Knesset Member Muhammad Mi'ari. The KAKH Movement demanded that the cabinet hold a special session to discuss the murder.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 6 November carries an interview with KAKH spokesman No'am Federman by David Ze'ev in which Federman, asked whether he is calling for the Jews "to restrain themselves," replies: "I don't think that I have any control about what KAKH activities are going to do. We're making a meeting today in the morning in the office of KAKH Movement and we'll decide about our steps. But I think and it might happen that people, KAKH activities, will revenge."]

Two Arabs Killed Near Nabulus

TA0611082090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] A man and a woman were killed this morning by shots fired from a car bearing Israeli license plates in the village of Luban al-Sharqiyah, south of Nabulus. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the assailant drove through the village in his car, fired shots at residents, and then fled. The IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] has imposed a curfew on the area.

'Revenge' Cited in Arab Deaths

TA0611114490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Report by Dani Gur-Arye]

[Text] Over 100 people gathered outside the KAKH headquarters in Jerusalem this morning as soon as they heard the news. Members of the movement, journalists, and people who wanted to express solidarity with the movement waited for the general secretary of the movement to come out of its meeting and make a statement.

There was tension between journalists and movement members, although no outbursts of violence. A half hour ago, the secretary came out, and a spokesman gave this statement:

[Begin spokesman recording] There are those that think that today Rabbi Kahana was killed. Rabbi Kahana and his ideas will live on. Rabbi Kahana symbolized the fight for Jewish survival and the Torah truth. These are things that cannot be destroyed. Whoever thinks that today Rabbi Kahana and the KAKH Movement have been destroyed has made a great mistake. [end recording]

The spokesman also made reference to the Palestinians who were killed this morning near Nabulus. He indicated that their deaths were in revenge for the killing of Kahana and said more Arabs would be made to pay the price.

Government Survives No-Confidence Votes

TA0511184090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The government has survived yet another vote of no confidence. This afternoon the Knesset heard seven motions on the issue of housing the influx of immigrants. The final vote was 57 in favor of the government, 50 in support of the no-confidence vote. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

The Labor Party, left-wing factions, and Arab Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Muhammad Mi'ari representing their one-man factions, presented the motions of no confidence. The official issue was what was termed the government's inability to cope with the influx of immigrants. Though as usual, the speakers took the opportunity to also raise the peace process and other issues. The speakers accused the government of failing in what was referred to as a blessing and a miracle and of acting in a panic because of its failure.

In response, Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon accused the opposition of putting party politics in front of the importance of absorbing Jews from the USSR. The vote, about 45 minutes ago, was not as close as some thought it might be, and considering this is as narrow a coalition as it is; frankly, it was not close at 57 to 50. Much of the drama fizzled when Interior Minister Arye Der'i convinced his SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party MK's and spiritual leader 'Ovadya Yosef that SHAS should vote with the government. Those who appeared did vote with the government, but not all of the SHAS MK's were present for the vote.

Also absent were Agudat Yisra'el's four MK's. Aguda has been meeting into the night to decide whether to join the coalition. They said beforehand they would abstain. The two right-wing Moledet MK's were present, but when their names came up in the roll call they announced they were not taking part in the vote. [passage omitted]

Ministry Denounces PLO 'Anti-Israel Initiative'

TA0111122490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Miryam Fuchs and Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] The Arab countries are considering launching a new anti-Israel initiative at the United Nations. They are now thinking of abandoning their efforts to oust Israel from the organization; instead they will demand that Israel's continued participation be made conditional upon an Israeli undertaking to obey all the resolutions. The United States and Israel are cooperating to foil this initiative. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday warned the United Nations against seriously hurting itself if it "capitulates to the PLO game" of trying to attach conditions to the acceptance of the validity of the Israeli delegation's letter of accreditation. Such a move, said the spokesman, "would deal a deathblow" to the principle of universal representation.

Barukh Bina, the deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman, stated last night that the PLO decided to change its tactics because this year Israel is expected to win the support of the East European countries as well. The PLO's "new ploy," however, is just as unacceptable as the previous one, as its goal is to turn Israel into a "second-class" UN member. The spokesman said that the success of the PLO maneuver would greatly diminish the international standing of the United Nations and would also divert world attention from the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Arens Rules Out Iraqi Nuclear Capability

TA0511185190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Report by Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Minister Arens said the Iraqis continue to try to attain a nuclear capability.

[Begin Arens recording] To the best of our knowledge, they have not yet reached a nuclear capability. I suppose that is good news not only for Israel, but also for the forces deployed in Saudi Arabia. If from now on the world prevents the transfer of know-how and parts to the Iraqis which would permit them from achieving a nuclear military capability, I believe it will take them a long time to attain that capability. If, on the other hand, there is a continued transfer of technologies, whether via companies or individuals, then we will have to assume that they will achieve their target.

Now, about [the presence of] uranium mines in Iraq, I cannot confirm it, but it is possible. Still, there is a wide gap between uranium mines, which exist in many places around the world, and enriched uranium and the technology required to make a nuclear bomb which is based on enriched uranium. [end recording]

Arens Discusses Defense Costs of Gulf Crisis

TA0511170790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Gulf crisis has brought more understanding for Israel's problems, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today in Tel Aviv. One proof of that is the fact that the new budget passed by the U.S. Congress includes important benefits for Israel. Israel's new deployment in view of the Gulf crisis will cost it some $1 billion. Our correspondent Uri Revah heard the defense minister:

[Begin recording] [Revah] Defense Minister Moshe Arens today addressed the Israel-U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv. He spoke about Israeli-U.S. relations.

[Arens] Recently a deterioration in relations has been widely mentioned. We have seen the media often refer to an unprecedented low, ask where we are going, and claim that we are isolated and that the prime minister is leading us into isolation. These descriptions, even if they corresponded with momentary feelings, do not correspond with the objective facts of the relations between our two countries.

[Revah] Moshe Arens said that when he was the foreign minister he warned the ambassadors of the United States, Britain, France, and Japan about the threats Saddam Husayn had made against Israel, but his warnings went unheeded.

[Arens] He warned that he would use chemical weapons against Israel, and I told them that the international community should stop him; otherwise he would view this as the world's tacit agreement. We warned against it. We requested consultations on how to deal with this threat. I warned that Israel was not the only country in danger, but that this was a threat against the Middle East, against the whole world. I warned that this was a man with unlimited ambitions. None of our warnings or requests were answered.

[Revah] The defense minister said that Israel's deployment in view of the threats entailed in the Gulf crisis will cost it some $1 billion.

[Arens] We will need to operate equipment, here and there, even mobilize reserve units, deploy forces, and create a situation which I believe will cost nearly $1 billion.

[Revah] The Gulf crisis brought better understanding for the problems Israel is facing, the defense minister said. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 5 November, in a report on the same address by Arens, adds: "Defense Minister Arens added that he had told the U.S. secretary of defense that, in view of the Gulf crisis, Israel is requesting an increase in military aid to a total of some $2.5 billion."]

Al-Aqsa Preacher Threatens U.S. Interests

JN0311211190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Nicosia, 3 Nov (INA)—The al-Aqsa mosque preacher has called on all Palestinians to be on a constant state of alert to retaliate against any act of aggression on Iraq.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Cyprus, Dr. Muhammad al-Kafrawi said the Palestinians will do everything in their power to reduce U.S., British, and Israeli interests in the world to ashes in solidarity with Iraq, which is defending the Arab nation's future, dignity, and honor.

Strategy Outlines Further Response to UN Report

TA0611121390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
6 Nov 90 p A2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has instructed Israel's envoys abroad to take action to prevent the endorsement of the UN secretary general's report recommending ways to protect the Palestinian population of the territories and East Jerusalem. This step was a compromise between various political elements in Jerusalem, who disagreed on the approach to the crisis.

The foreign minister's stance favoring restraint with respect to the crisis at the United Nations was countered by a view shared by senior political circles that from Israel's viewpoint, the secretary general's recommendations are of a very serious nature.

Senior political elements in Jerusalem believe that the adoption of these recommendations by the nonaligned countries at the Security Council is liable to lead Israel to an international court. They stress that Perez de Cuellar's report is in fact a maneuver aimed at neutralizing the Security Council in order to strip the United States of its veto right in the new forum.

According to this stance, vigorous activity is called for at this time; it is to be directed at both the Security Council member countries and at international public opinion. The activity will aim to expose the perils inherent in the secretary general's recommendations. This stance is disputed by Foreign Ministry elements, who believe that such activity will harm the delicate fabric of relations with the United States.

German Financing Sought for Submarines

TA0511094590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
5 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The Israeli defense establishment has asked Germany for help in financing the construction of two Dolphin-type submarines for the Israeli Navy.

'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that the defense establishment has approached the German Government with a request for help in defraying the cost of building the submarines in a German shipyard.

The German Government has not yet consented to the request, but the defense establishment is optimistic about the "German option," which will make it possible to overcome the financial difficulties and go ahead with the project, valued at $600 million.

An Israeli request that Germany allow the payment for the submarines to be rescheduled, if the first alternative is rejected, is also being examined.

The defense establishment believes that the Germans are very interested in the project and will therefore try to accommodate Israel.

Israel currently purchases in Germany military equipment to the tune of $30 million a year.

Senior military sources report that the defense minister must make a final decision on the submarine project by the end of November and that now the German Government's response is being awaited.

According to the terms of the deal, the defense establishment is to pay approximately $20 million for the next stage of the project at the end of November.

Shamir Doubts Unity of Anti-Saddam Coalition

TA0511180190 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that no one in Israel is interested in destabilizing King Husayn's regime. In a conversation with a former UK defense minister visiting Israel [Conservative MP Michael Heseltine], Shamir expressed his doubts about the unity of the coalition against Saddam, and said that it is hard to imagine a situation where Arabs fight other Arabs. According to the prime minister, if Saddam is defeated, the region will change and the Arabs will sober up, and this could open new channels of dialogue with them.

Attempted Saddam-Rabin Meeting Detailed

TA0611112890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 90 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpts] About a year ago, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn offered, through a U.S. national of Arab descent, to meet with then Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Two dates were set for meetings in Europe, but the Iraqis postponed them both times. The secret meeting between Rabin and the liaison man was held in Philadelphia. Yesterday, Rabin refused either to refute or confirm the report.

It has been learned that the American middleman, who is a major figure in the oil business world and the president of a well-known bank, reported the planned meeting to the White House, and the details were conveyed to President Bush. [Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 6 November, in a page A1 report by Ze'ev Schiff, identifies the businessman as "Bob Abboud, president of the First City Bank of Texas."] The meeting was initiated by the businessman after a meeting with the Iraqi president in Baghdad. Seeking contact with Israeli elements, the U.S. middleman first met with 'Azri'el 'Enav, an Israeli businessman who lives abroad most of the time.

The American related that Saddam Husayn regarded Rabin as the strongman of the Israeli Government and was willing to meet with him to discuss bilateral issues. It was believed that Saddam's willingness to forge ties with Rabin came in the wake of reports that Israel is liable to attack Iraqi installations for chemical weapon production. [passage omitted]

Rabin agreed to meet with Saddam Husayn, but declined the proposal to include a PLO representative in part of the meeting. [passage omitted]

The two alternative dates set for a possible meeting were postponed by Iraq each time the meeting was due to take place. The ties with the American businessman were pursued, but as the tension with Iraq increased after Saddam Husayn's speech at the conference of the Economic Cooperation Council (comprising Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen) last February, the proposed meeting was put on ice. It has been learned that the U.S. businessman briefed the White House on details of his mediation.

Aides Dispute Levi-Mitterrand Conversation

TA0411093990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Michel Zlotowsky]

[Text] Paris—The French government has been "deeply embarrassed" by remarks Foreign Minister David Levi made after meeting here last week with President Francois Mitterrand, presidential aides told THE JERUSALEM POST at the weekend.

At a briefing following his meeting with Mitterrand, Levi said the president had told him "Anyone referring to Jerusalem as to an occupied territory doesn't understand that Israel will never relinquish Jerusalem as the reunified capital city. I understand the fundamental importance of Jerusalem for Israel and for the Jewish people. Anyone believing Israel will adopt a more flexible position on Jerusalem doesn't understand a thing about Israel's policy."

Regarding Soviet Jewish immigration, Levi said Mitterrand had stated: "No one can tell the Soviet Jews where to settle or where not to settle. Freedom cannot be accompanied with condition."

On UN Security Council Resolution 242, Levi said Mitterrand had told him, "It is impossible to request of Israel to withdraw from all the territories prior to any negotiation when we look at the pre-'67 borders, which constituted a terrible threat for Israel. I have never used the term 'occupied' for the territories, I use 'disputed' instead."

The French president's aides were distraught by Levi's disclosures. "We are very deeply embarrassed," one aide told the POST, requesting not to be named. "What happened here is that M. Levi has brought together pieces of M. Mitterrand's declarations, giving them another meaning than the one intended originally by the president."

The aide said all Mitterrand did in fact say to Levi was that he knew Israel's position. "He summed it up, but that doesn't imply at all that he was supporting these views," the aide said. On Soviet immigration, the aide said that Mitterrand does not at all approve of the settlement of Jews in the territories or in East Jerusalem.

Israel's Ambassador to France 'Ovadia Sofer, who was present at the Mitterrand-Levi meeting, dismissed the explanations. "President Mitterrand was very clear on all the points mentioned by Foreign Minister David Levi, leaving no room for mistaken interpretations," he told the POST.

Bureaucracy Blamed for Delayed USSR Ties

TA0511113390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav has said that bureaucratic obstacles have caused the recent delay in the finalization of formal ties between Israel and the Soviet Union. In the coming days, the sides will agree on ways to accelerate the process.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen adds that in addition, the Foreign Ministry is pursuing its efforts to restructure its activities vis-a-vis the changing East European countries. Israel's ambassador to the CSFR will arrive in Prague in a few weeks. In Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, Israel has opened a temporary office, while its Warsaw embassy staff has been enlarged. In addition, Israel may open a representation in Berlin. [Reporting on the Israeli mission in Berlin, Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 5 November, in a page 13 report by Bonn-based correspondent Shlomo Shamgar, adds that the mission "will deal mainly with East German issues and with local Jewish property." The report adds that the Berlin mission is envisaged as "a branch of the embassy in Bonn."]

Goren Cites Losses From Green Line Closure

TA0611115290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 90 p A1

[Text] The estimated annual income of territories residents working in Israel is 1.2 billion shekels, said Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, who contends that the closure of the Green Line and the accompanying loss of income would turn the territories into one big concentration camp.

The government activities coordinator, who objects to the closure of the territories, explained that the blockade imposed on the Green Line for a few days was not a punitive action against the 1.5 million Arabs in the territories, but rather an operational move designed to calm the outburst which followed the bloody events on the Temple Mount. Goren added: While the State of Israel lacks sufficient funds to establish an economic infrastructure and create jobs in the territories, the international elements to which Israel appealed on this issue linked their consent to invest in the territories with a political solution.

Knesset Reaffirms Immunity of MK Mi'ari

TA0611065790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Knesset last night voted not to lift parliamentary immunity for Knesset Member [MK] Muhammad Mi'ari, as had been requested by Attorney General Yosef Harish [because of his support for the PLO as expressed in a 1988 encounter]. In secret balloting, 49 MK's opposed the motion, 45 voted in favor, and there were three abstentions.

Likud sources reacted angrily to their failure to get the motion through and blamed five MK's who were absent during the vote. These were Ministers Yitzhaq Moda'i and David Magen and MK's Sharir, Abu- Hatzera, and Gur.

Further Reportage on Gaza Rioting

132 Injured 3 Nov

TA0411104190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpts] One Palestinian died and 132 were wounded yesterday in some of the worst rioting to hit the Gaza Strip since the beginning of the intifadah, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] put the figure of wounded at 88, of whom 50 were released from hospital after treatment. Five soldiers were wounded. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Palestinian groups killed two Gaza residents suspected of cooperating with Israel, Palestinian sources said. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 4 November, in a report on page 1 by On Levi, Mikhal Sela', and the DAVAR's correspondent in the south adds: "The West Bank was relatively quiet over the weekend.

["Six schools were closed in the West Bank over the weekend after youths had been throwing rocks from them at IDF units during the past few days." The report adds that "in Dayr al-Balah over the weekend, four men were injured in four attempted murders for suspicion of collaboration."]

86 Injured 4 Nov

TA0411184190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Here is an update from the Gaza Strip: According to the latest reports, it transpires that 86 individuals were hurt today in clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]; 70 of them were sent home. Five firebombs were hurled in the Strip today.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens toured the Gaza Strip today accompanied by Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the defense minister was briefed by the commander of the region, Civil Administration staff, and other security personnel. He then toured several places, including Bayt Hanun, where disturbances broke out yesterday. The defense minister did not issue new instructions on how to handle the latest disturbances.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1830 GMT on 4 November adds that "curfews were imposed on the al-Shati', al-Shaykh Radwan, Al- Nasir, Jabalyah, (Masru'a), Bayt Lahiyah, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps."]

Reportage on 5 Nov Events in Territories

TA0611145090

[Editorial report] Writing on page 12 of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 November, Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs report: "Soldiers in Qalqilyah, attacked with stones hurled by marching Palestinian 'Ninja' youths yesterday, fired back with live ammunition and shot a bystander next to his home by mistake, local sources said." Doctors reported the man to be "in serious but stable condition." According to military sources, "a patrol fired at a group of eight masked youths, wounding one of them and a bystander."

"Military sources said a military patrol stopped up to 30 youths in Bi'r Zayt while looking for suspected intifadah activists. Most of them were released. One youth who tried to flee was injured."

"In al-Rummanah, north of Janin near the Green Line, Palestinians set fire to an empty Israeli bus, burning it completely, Palestinian sources said.

"On the Nabulus-Jericho road near Tubas, Israeli settlers stoned Arab cars, injuring Ahmad Mas'ud, 40."

"Shots were fired at a military patrol in Shabura camp in Rafah yesterday, slightly wounding a soldier. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said it imposed a curfew on the area."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 6 November, in a report on page 7 by David Regev and Roni Shaqed, states: "Rafah residents clashed with the Army for the third consecutive day. Arab sources said that nine residents were wounded in an incident in which three Molotov cocktails were thrown at IDF patrols. Incidents occurred in Gaza, too, where three people were wounded."

"Yesterday the IDF demolished the homes of two youths from the al-Burayj refugee camp, Nahid Hashshash and Mahmud Dibal, both 16, who are suspected of stone throwing and of involvement in the murder of Sergeant Amnon Pomerantz on Rosh Hashana.

"Masked individuals yesterday attacked Rafah resident Ahmad al-'Ammash, 30, with axes and knives, for alleged collaboration with Israel. He suffered moderately serious injuries."

Writing on page 7 of the same issue of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Roni Shaqed reports: "To control the territories, the IDF continues to use a camera installed on a balloon. Yesterday the balloon was flown over the Tulkarm refugee camp, and the day before yesterday, over al-Duhayshah."

Writing on page A11 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 November, Eli Kamir reports: "In Tel Aviv District court yesterday Muhammad and Ashraf Sarsur from Kafr Qasim received the harsh punishment of six years in prison. The two were convicted of setting three vehicles on fire. Samir Sarsur, from the same village and convicted of the same offense, was sentenced to five years."

King Husayn's Meeting With Mitterrand Reported

JN0611084090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[Report from Paris by George Hawatimah]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn ended a crucial one-to-one summit with French President Francois Mitterrand Monday night, saying it was a "good" meeting which contributed to efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis.

"We had a candid talk over the Middle East problem," the King told reporters after the 45-minute meeting with Mitterrand, who had just come back after talks in Egypt with President Husni Mubarak, a key player in the anti-Iraq coalition weaved by the United States.

The Arabs, along with all others in the world, seek "peace and justice" and "we are striving to find a just settlement to the Gulf crisis," the King said.

"In our part of the world we have confronted numerous problems, but we have no alternative but to remain optimistic about solutions," said the King, who was briefed on Iraq's perceptions of the latest developments and peace efforts prior to his departure from Amman for Paris Sunday.

The King's talks with Mitterrand took place against a background of hightened tension in the Gulf following remarks by Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim that Iraq would never withdraw from Kuwait and by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the crisis had entered a new phase.

Despite the Iraqi minister's statement, the King's message to Mitterrand was that Baghdad was still committed to a compromise political solution, whose first state would involve a speedy and total release of all foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait as deterrent against attack.

"Baghdad is now willing and ready (to free all foreigners) in return for a French commitment to work for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis," a source close to the talks said. "The new Iraqi offer is a much softer proposition than an earlier one" made by Baghdad, the source explained.

The earlier Iraqi position was that Baghdad would free all foreigners held in Iraq and Kuwait in return for a Franco-Soviet commitment that the Gulf crisis would be resolved through political/diplomatic means.

Europeans generally believe that the detention of foreign nationals as deterrent against attack has been an extremely complicating and exasperating factor in the crisis.

Mitterrand's reaction to the proposal was not immediately known, although the French government's position had been that all foreigners had to be freed and France could not possibly offer any kind of commitment on behalf of any other country. The French have also insisted that any stand they take on the crisis should be closely worked out and coordinated with their European allies.

Soon after his meeting with Mitterrand, the King left for Geneva where he is expected to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, French Prime Minister Michel Rocard (and, time permitting, with other leaders) on the fringes of a United Nations summit on environment.

Commenting on the King's meeting with Mitterrand, Elysee Palace spokesman Hubert Vedrine said that the president had reiterated that there could not be any solution to the Gulf crisis without Iraqi compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The spokesman quoted Mitterrand as saying that "nothing fundamental has changed" since the beginning of the crisis and that "the only way to have a peaceful solution is to obtain Iraq's compliance with United Nations Security Council demands" that Iraq withdraw its forces from Kuwait, release all foreigners and restore Kuwait sovereignty.

The King's talks with Mitterrand also covered bilateral ties, some aspects of which have been adversely affected by the Gulf crisis. Senior Jordanian officials expected that the two sides would smoothly hammer out any problems affecting the relations.

In his talks with Thatcher, the King is expected to press the prime minister to tone down her tough rhetoric against Iraq, arguing that the situation is so delicate that it needs cool heads and quiet and effective diplomacy to avoid a catastrophic war from erupting in the area.

In his comments to reporters as well as in an interview with French radio prior to his meeting with Mitterrand, the King emphasised that a solution to the Gulf crisis should include the wider Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Obviously, we are against occupation by war," the King reaffirmed and pointed out that Jordan had adopted the same position towards the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, the Turkish intervention in Cyprus and the Argentine takeover of Falkland Islands. "We are doing (the same) here because we can't contradict ourselves," the king said. "Hopefully, the solution of this particular problem will lead to other problems being addressed."

"If we are moving then in an atmosphere of peace, having had a chance to look at the Palestinian dimension of the problem... we can also then move to remove weapons of mass destruction from the region," he said.

The King also warned that "no one will leave a winner" from a war in the Gulf and voiced appreciation that a military conflict might be imminent.

King told Radio France International that countries which have sent troops to the Gulf are beginning to reconsider the possibility of war in the region. He did not name the countries.

Asked if he thought war was imminent, the King said: "If it's going to happen, it will be very imminent. But I don't wish it."

"If we look at the situation on the ground, there exists the possibility of an incident happening, either by accident or on purpose," he said.

"I think that the danger is there, but I think one has to be optimistic, one has to do everything once can to avert a disaster that would affect all of the region for generations to come."

The King said a military conflict would "cause an ecological catastrophe."

Jordan would suffer "enormously" from a war and is already harmed seriously by the U.N. embargo against Iraq, he said.

After the talks with Mitterrand, the King described himself as "sometimes pessimistic, sometimes optimistic" about solving the Gulf crisis.

He described the talks as positive and underscored "common efforts" by France and Jordan to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East's problems.

"There has to be no embargo on dialogue, there has to be dialogue to get us to achieve results," the King told reporters after the meeting with Mitterrand.

During his stay in Paris, the King also met with former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and former German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

The King also held talks with French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement on Franco-Jordanian defence cooperation, but no details were available. The King told Radio France International that he had not asked for French military assistance.

The meetings were attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zayd Bin Shakir, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Jordan's ambassador to France as well as senior Jordanian and French officials.

Further on Husayn's Visit

WA0511164590

For reportage on the visit by King Husayn to France, including reports on his talks with President Francois Mitterrand and Defense Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, please see the France section of the 5 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Red Crescent Official Departs for Baghdad

JN0411105490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Nov 90 p 10

[Text] Amman—Dr. Muhammad al-Hadid, vice president of the Jordanian Red Crescent, accompanied by the American and British Red Cross delegations left Amman for Baghdad yesterday.

In a press statement prior to his departure, Dr. al-Hadid said that the Jordanian Red Crescent had assumed responsibility for preparing for holding a meeting between Iraqi Red Crescent officials on the one hand, and a delegation from the American Red Cross headed by Steven Richards, vice executive president of the American Red Cross, and a delegation from the British Red Cross headed by David Wyatt, head of the British Red Cross Public Relations Department, on the other, to discuss preparations for sending letters and parcels from and to Iraq's guests of American and British nationals.

He added that holding this meeting is in response to a request to the Jordanian Red Crescent by the Red Cross administrations in the United States and Britain.

Dr. al-Hadid noted that the Iraqi Red Crescent officials showed positive response to the Jordanian endeavor to organize this meeting and pointed out that preparations will be made to hold similar meetings with the Red Cross Societies in several European states.

Representatives Return

JN0511125490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Nov 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (Petra)—Vice President of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Muhammad Mutlaq al-Hadid and the delegations of the American and the British Red Cross returned from Baghdad to Amman Sunday after a two-day visit to Iraq.

Al-Hadid said the American and the British delegations held talks with the president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and other Iraqi officials on the process of delivering mail to and from the foreign nationals stranded in Iraq.

He said the two sides had reached an agreement that provides for delivering letters and personal mail to American and British nationals as of Nov. 15.

He added that JNRCS would facilitate the process in coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

UK's Heseltine Gives News Conference 4 Nov

JN0511103990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Nov 90 pp 1, 4

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The security and stability of Jordan could be imperiled if the cash-strapped, financially-troubled Kingdom does not receive urgent international aid to help it offset the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis and sanctions against Iraq, former British Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine warned Sunday.

Heseltine underlined the economic hardships Jordan faced in terms of losses as a result of the international embargo on Iraq and the return of Jordanian expatriates from Kuwait as well as the money the Kingdom spent on the hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals who used its territory for transit after fleeing Kuwait and Iraq in the wake of the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion.

The Gulf crisis has dealt a "sudden shock" to the Jordanian economy "...and there isn't an economy that is suffering as dramatically, with the exception of Kuwait itself" as a direct result of the crisis, the former defence secretary told an informal press briefing at the residence of the British ambassador shortly before leaving for the occupied West Bank across the River Jordan.

"Jordan has carried the responsibility of the world" in receiving and facilitating the return home of the evacuees, said Heseltine, 57, who arrived here late Saturday and held talks with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Mudar Badran on Sunday. Heseltine, a member of the British parliament from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's conservative Party, said Jordan should be immediately compensated "for the burden it alone carried and in the most distressing circumstances" to extend transit facilities to the evacuees.

"What must be in the interests of the international community is the stability of Jordan and that stability cannot be disassociated with the economic conditions here," he said. This should encourage "all those who have promised" aid to the kingdom to fulfil their pledge to extend assistance to make up for its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis, he said.

Emphasising that Jordan was observing the international embargo and sanctions against Iraq, its main trading partner, Heseltine warned that "it is very dangerous if we ignore the risks that will flow if its population becomes resentful" in the absence of international assistance to the Kingdom.

Jordan has said that it stood to lose almost $2 billion during 1990 and as much as $4 billion as a result of the Gulf crisis and sanction against Iraq. The losses include exports to Iraq and Kuwait, financial assistance from the two countries, expatriate remittances, a special oil price deal with Iraq and cargo transit charges.

Japan and Germany have pledged about $400 million in soft and medium term loans to help the Kingdom cope with the losses, but nothing has been received by Amman yet.

In addition to the losses, the Kingdom has also drawn about $60 million from its treasury to foot the bill for expenses incurred on the evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. In return it has received only less than $8 million.

Heseltine affirmed that the figures submitted by Jordan on its losses were verified by third parties.

He noted that aid to Jordan from the European Community (EC), of which Britain is a member, would be coming only during fiscal year 1991. EC ministers are meeting in Rome this week to discuss the issue.

The British politician skirted a question whether the Thatcher government was contemplating bilateral aid [to] help Jordan outside the expected EC assistance by saying his country had already committed a heavy contribution to the multinational forces arrayed against Iraq in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf. He pleaded that he was no longer a member of the government, which has to handle the issue of bilateral aid.

Heseltine, who stepped down as defence minister after a row with Thatcher in 1986 over a bid to rescue a financially-hit British helicopter company, said he "strongly supported" the hardline position adopted by the British government towards the Gulf crisis. Iraq "has to withdaw unconditionally" from Kuwait, he stressed. The international forces assembled in the Gulf are there to ensure that a peaceful settlement to the crisis is realised, he added.

"Everybody hopes the crisis would be diplomatically solved," he said. "It would be a tragedy if it became necessary to use force, but that option cannot be precluded."

Replying to a question how he viewed Thatcher's apparent rejection of an Arab solution to the crisis as called for and sought by Jordan, Heseltine said simply: "The best solution is for (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn to take his forces out of Kuwait."

According to Heseltine, "a high proportion" of the British population supports the government's policy vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis.

Despite persistence by British journalists at the briefing, Heseltine refused to be drawn into commenting on the political crisis in London sparked by the resignation of Sir Geoffrey Howe from the Thatcher cabinet last week and further aggravated by Heseltine himself through an open six-page letter which criticised the prime minister. "I can take this up if I need to when I get back to England on Wednesday," said the former defence secretary, who is seen as a favourite to succeed Thatcher if she were to step down now.

Heseltine also declined to comment on his planned talks with Israeli leaders during his visit to Israel and the occupied territories. The visit, he said, was primarily aimed at delivering a lecture on "communication fellowships" between Britain and Israel.

He also said that he did not know whether he would be meeting any Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was boycotted by Palestinian leaders during a visit he paid to the occupied territories last month. The boycott was stated in protest against a comment attributed to Hurd that the British government was opposed to the idea of an independent Palestinian state. Hurd said later his comments were "ministerpreted."

Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Departs

JN0211213390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Mr. Yu Chong-ha, Korean deputy foreign minister, left Amman this evening following a three-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and held talks with the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry on bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them in economic and trade areas.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, the Korean deputy foreign minister expressed his satisfaction with talks. He asserted that these talks will contribute to enhancing and cementing bilateral ties in the service of the two friendly peoples. He added that his country is looking forward to establishing a lasting, just peace in the Middle East and the Gulf region within the framework of international resolutions.

The Korean official was seen off by the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, senior officials in the ministry, and the Korean ambassador to Amman.

Contacts Held To Lift U.S. Navy 'Blockade'

JN0611115690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Jordanian Government is holding extensive talks, through diplomatic channels, with the parties concerned to lift the unofficial U.S. naval blockade that is being imposed on al-'Aqabah.

In this regard, a source at the Ministry of Transport and Communications has said that the contacts the government has so far held yielded a promise that the U.S. Navy will not intercept any ship or prevent it from entering al-'Aqabah. The source pointed out that the government will continue to make every effort and use all legal, diplomatic, and political means to stop the interception of merchant ships heading for al-'Aqabah.

In another development, a number of shipping agents in Jordan have expressed concern over the continuation of U.S. military piracy against ships heading for al-'Aqabah, which will lead to the cessation of shipping activity at the port. They said that their losses as a result of this action are very great, and that several shipping companies in Jordan would stop work in this field. This is in addition to the grave losses sustained by the export and import merchants in particular, and the Jordanian economy in general. Some of them pointed out that they would resort to international courts to explain their case, especially since such actions conflict with the internationally-recognized maritime laws.

Businessmen View Harm of U.S. Navy 'Piracy'

JN0511124490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—The piracy commited by U.S. Navy against ships laden with goods bound to Jordan is aimed at preventing or delaying the arrival of raw materials needed for Jordanian industries, in a bid to tighten the grip on the Jordanian economy and to make the country unable to honour its obligations to other countries, private sector sources told Al-Ra'y Arabic daily and the Jordan Times Sunday.

A major Jordanian importer said the acts of piracy were not performed haphazardly, but in accordance with deliberately prepared plans. He noted that some Westerners, who claim to be working as media people, collect information about the needs of the Jordanian market and report any shortages of material in the Jordanian markets.

The U.S. Navy utilises such information and studies in tightening the inspection measures to a degree tantamount to real piracy," the source said. [quotation marks as received]

Muhammad 'Asfur, president of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, said that Jordan could have concluded contracts worth $1 billion of exports during the last few months, but it was unable to do that because of the current circumstances.

'Asfur noted that Jordanian merchants were facing genuine problems as a result of their inability to implement the provisions of their contracts with the government, thus incurring progressive fines as a result of the delay in or failure to deliver the materials on time.

Jordanian merchants are bound by contacts to a number of governmental parties. And their failure to honour their commitments under the contracts will make them liable to payment of huge fines, which could have been avoided had the U.S. Navy not intercepted or returned ships bound to al-'Aqabah, according to 'Asfur.

Private sector sources said that the U.S. Navy last week had intercepted a ship flying under German flag, carrying 223 containers of raw material needed for Jordanian industries and ordered the German captain to change its course, under the pretext that the documents were not clear.

Faced with the insistence of the U.S. Navy to change the course of the ship, the captain had decided to sail to Jeddah, al-Hudaydah and Port Sudan to discharge cargo bound to those countries.

Asked about the Ministry of Industry and Trade's role in addressing the piracy issue, Ziyad 'Innab, a former minister said the ministry was following up on the issue on a case by case basis, and that it attempted to solve these problems with the local and international parties concerned.

Saudi Customs Rejects 'Jordan-Made Goods'

JN0611095190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
6 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[By Musa al-Hawamidah]

[Text] A number of Jordanian exporters have stressed to AL-DUSTUR that the Customs Department in Saudi Arabia has instructed all entry points not to accept any Jordan-made goods.

People arriving from Saudi Arabia said that tons of medicines, chemical materials, and canned food are piled up in the courtyards of the Saudi border customs posts. One of the exporters said that the Saudis suspended all his importation documents—although what he imported was German-made goods—because he presented an insurance paper carrying the name of the Jordan Insurance Company. The papers were rejected because the company carries the name of Jordan, despite the fact that the company's capital is Saudi.

In another development, the director of the Saudi customs department, when asked about the piling up of goods, replied: I have clear instructions not to accept any Jordanian exports whatsoever.

Arab-Islamic Coalition Front Changes Name

JN0311210490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Following a meeting held at the Islamic Hospital today, attended by charter members of the Parliamentary Arab-Islamic Coalition Front, agreement was reached to change its name to the Parliamentary Unionist Coalition Front [jabhat al-'i'tilaf al- wahdawi al-niyabi]. Our parliamentary affairs correspondent Muhammad al-Tarawinah has the following report.

[Begin al-Tarawinah recording] The meeting was held in the context of consultations inside the parliamentary building with a view to coordinating among parliamentary blocs to formulate a joint plan of action for the coming parliamentary term, and to coordinate moves on elections for the house speakership. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Column Examines U.S. 'Blacklist' of Ships

JN0611090790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
6 Nov 90 p 20

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Blacklists, al-'Aqabah Blockade, and Good Conduct!!"]

[Text] The U.S. officer who is intercepting merchant ships bound for al-'Aqabah carries "a blacklist" of Jordanians who at one time or another may have either transported or exported goods to Iraq or just said: "Good morning, neighbors" to the Iraqis.

Of course, that blacklist did not come out of the blue; nor was it transmitted via satellite. It was the result of an act of espionage within the country, carried out by administrative and commercial sections and communicated at dinners and drinking parties. Most of it was the work of "U.S. AID," which signs agreements with the Planning Ministry involving studies on energy, insurance, the marketing of vegetables, and almost every activity in the country. So, it is not surprising to see an "official" letter from U.S. AID requesting an insurance company to provide with it a statement on its monthly operations; yes, as simple as that.

Our country, gentlemen, is more open than necessary. And, since we are talking about a pan-Arab battle, we may as well go back and shut our doors and windows and block every loophole in our establishments. Foreign embassies must abide by the laws, regulations, and norms of foreign missions and communicate with establishments, companies, and individuals only through the Foreign Ministry.

The U.S. officer intercepting merchant ships can have his "blacklists," since this is his own business and that of his government. The American Embassy may also collect all the information it wants. But, we must not give them that information with all our hearts. They should not get this information easily, and we must do all we can to prevent them from getting it. The American Embassy is a hostile mission as long as the blockade on our country is carried out by U.S. warships, and as long as this activity is linked with the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance.

We must understand that. The American Embassy must also understand that. Those people who wring their hands before the American master and apologize for the position taken by this great people against the imperialist onslaught on the Gulf, and who even apologize for the U.S. fleet's meanness against our people in the Red Sea—these people, no matter who they are, are nobody as far as national political action is concerned.

We have asked our government to go to the UN Security Council and the International Court to expose the U.S. terrorism against our political position and to demand compensation for our imports that have been dumped into the sea and for the unloading of our imports at the ports of the Americans' friends and servants, where they are to be auctioned. It seems, however, that our government has chosen to remain patient and to await the results of the "good conduct" the State Department spokeswoman with the made-up eyes has promised, which has not yet reached the officers carrying the blacklists in the Red Sea!!

Lebanese Forces Delegation Meets Syria's Kan'an

NC0511160290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that the greater Beirut test must succeed and that failure is impermissible because this would affect the entire Lebanese situation.

In an interview with the Voice of the People, Dallul said: Some parties have raised some questions about greater Beirut, and these have been answered. There are no problems, and the Army deployed in Beirut will comprise units from all the brigades, with no particular officers or units favored.

Replying to a question, Dallul said: The Army alone will take over security in greater Beirut with the support of the Syrian Arab Army. We should not get lost in labyrinths of guesswork. He noted that the government will not deal with any dossier before completing the greater Beirut one, after which the subsequent steps will be discussed with the parties.

Replying to another question, Dallul said: We did not attend the meeting between the Lebanese Forces delegation and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon]. We were meeting with Brig. Gen. Kan'an to discuss creating appropriate conditions to ensure the Beirut plan's success when the Lebanese Forces delegation arrived. We met with them for five minutes, and then we left. The delegation then met with Brig. Gen. Kan'an. We have learned that it was agreed that Brig. Gen. Kan'an would meet with Lebanese Forces leader Samir Ja'ja'.

Asked whether the Army would absorb the armed groups and the militias, Dallul said: I really do not know about the Army's capability of absorbing them since this is up to the Army command and the Defense Ministry. But it is our duty as a government and a state to absorb all these forces and not discard them in the street to become outlaws. These are youths who carried weapons at a certain stage to defend a specific issue. In ant solution, the state should supposedly absorb them into the Army. We should not abandon them because they are a part of our people.

Lebanese Forces Defend Demands on Government

NC0511201090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] What some seemingly clever or cunning persons describe as conditions the Lebanese Forces are imposing on the legitimate authority or demands that serve the Lebanese Forces' private interests are really the minimum that the legitimate authority must realize to ensure that the solution process is being soundly pursued.

What the Lebanese Forces have given to the legitimacy, the state, Lebanon, and all of the Lebanese—whether they recognize this or not—is more than what all of them put together have offered. If legitimacy has survived, the credit for that goes to the Lebanese Forces, which defended legitimacy's positions when they were in the eastern area and which confronted their opposition when they moved to the western area. If the state has survived, it is thanks to the Lebanese Forces, which, in the absence of legitimacy's army, frustrated all the attempts to destroy it by the Palestinians and the rest.

If Lebanon has survived, it is thanks to the Lebanese Forces, who took up the rifle for the Lebanese cause and goal, even if it was a Christian rifle, and which protected all the Lebanese people through the Lebanese Christians. These forces remain the only body that openly speaks what others fear to say, that confronts things when others shrink from doing so, and that speaks the truth when others refrain from doing so.

The Lebanese Forces, which opposed General 'Awn's suicide plan and the threat it posed to the [Lebanese] entity, legitimacy, and everybody; which approved of the al-Ta'if agreement despite all the attacks launched against them; which proceeded with the reforms despite all the apprehensions; and which went along with the Greater Beirut plan despite all the violations, cannot make more concessions. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces see that they are being rewarded for their stands by a despicable campaign launched by some parties. They also witness the legitimacy failing to honor its minimum commitments toward the citizens and what is right.

What everybody must understand, whether they like it or not, is that the Lebanese Forces represent the only free Christian will. They are not prepared to get involved in cheap bazaars and trivial policies. If the Lebanese Forces insist on some logically important matters that others regard as insignificant, they do so out of their eagerness to ensure the success of the chance that is available to the Lebanese.

What is wrong with asking the legitimate authority alone to take charge of security of the two al-Matn areas? Otherwise, why should the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists, for example, not have their own offices and armed presence in the western area, the Southern Suburb, Sidon, Tripoli, and al-Biqa'? What is wrong with asking the legitimate authority to respect the al-Ta'if agreement despite all the flagrant violations of its mechanism? What is wrong with calling for a national accord government that is stipulated in the national accord plan? What is wrong with calling for equality and balanced treatment for everybody, despite the fact that the Lebanese Forces are aware of the size of the other parties in comparison to their own?

In any case, the Lebanese Forces do not expect answers to all these questions from the small blusterers, whatever their background and whoever backs them. They expect these answers to come from the legitimate authority, which must see the facts and act in a way that ensures the success of its process; not by adopting the apparently lackluster method of a theatrical solution, nor by slacking or allowing violations that will have a negative affect on it sooner or later, but by rectifying shortcomings and eliminating the anxiety which many Lebanese have about their fate and the continuation of a free and dignified life, especially because the sacrifices made by the people in the eastern area are sufficient to compel all to seek compensation for these sacrifices instead of being persistently provoked and threatened. The Lebanese Forces have never feared adopting bold stands when the need arises.

Ja'ja' on New Government, Security, Militias

NC0411164590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' today asserted that after the state of rebellion has been eliminated, there is no more room for not implementing the al-Ta'if agreement's provisions in their proper order. He reiterated his urgent demand to form a national accord government, implementing al-Ta'if in the form in which it was approved. He explained that the Lebanese Forces have a full, comprehensive, and serious understanding of the disbanding of illegitimate military forces. He declared: We are acting on this basis.

He announced, however, that the Lebanese Forces refuse to be regarded as a militia and emphasized that the resistance is not a militia. He pointed out that officials in the 1943 state [reference to 1943 National Covenant] are not concerned with solving the problem but with evading responsibility and laying it on other shoulders. On this issue Dr. Ja'ja' said:

"Some military groups misbehaved during the 15 years of war. Some military groups were established for purposes of profit and other personal motives. It is these groups that are called militias. This does not mean at all that we accept being counted among the ranks of militias, warlords, and other names which some parties were compelled for reasons of their own to use to describe armed groups in their areas. To begin with, we, the Lebanese Forces, a Lebanese resistance force, are not a militia. We are not a militia, brother. We must go back to the starting point and define things. A militia is an armed gang or a group of armed civilians belonging to a particular political party and existing to carry out a certain role. The Ku Klux Klan in the United States, to consider one example, is a militia. It is a militia because an American state exists. The state lacks nothing there, and U.S. society is in good condition. This group or party has political goals and has formed a militia in order to attempt, by military pressure, to attain its political objectives. When we have something like this, we can call it a militia. If some rightist or leftist parties in countries where the state is in good condition and where its existence, independence, and liberty are not threatened resort to military action to impose their political views on others, then they are militias.

"When it comes to Lebanon, the situation is totally different. Do you know which is the worst aspect of the Lebanese crisis? The worst thing that I have seen is not the foreign occupations of Lebanon, to tell the truth. The worst thing I have seen is that some Lebanese people, during the 15-year war and despite everything that was happening, used to think they were in Switzerland. They were not aware of what was happening. They did not realize that during the 15 years of war there was no Lebanese state. They did not realize their country was occupied. They did not realize that they were being robbed of their national will. They did not realize that we had no independence, liberty, or sovereignty. Consequently you cannot come and judge a very exceptional situation—where there is no state, no sovereignty, no liberty, no independence, but there is an occupation—as you judge a completely different situation.

"As a result of these facts, military groups of very different natures arose. Each military group arose for a different purpose. I greatly respect some of these groups, even if we and they are poles apart politically. I again refuse to have them called militias. Some groups which have carried out resistance acts in the South—perhaps only some of them—are very honorable. It is not right to describe them as militias. It is not right. I am speaking of some groups only, perhaps few. I am not speaking about those who remain here in Beirut and carry out a verbal resistance and in the end do nothing. Their resistance here in Beirut consists only of occupying hotels, confiscating apartments, and upsetting the life of the public. I am speaking of some real resistance fighters, regardless of our political relationship and our ideological stand with regard to them. We are poles apart from some of them. Nevertheless, we must acknowledge that these groups are not militias but real resistance fighters. I do not want to find myself compelled to give names. Some sacrificed their lives in order to confront a certain situation with full conviction. These are not militias.

"The Lebanese Forces—the Lebanese resistance—are not a militia. When you bear in mind that the Lebanese resistance lost 20,000 martyrs in all areas of Lebanon in confronting all the foreign forces which entered Lebanon, how can you come and call it a militia?

"On the other hand, some people are trying to portray things, as is the habit in Lebanon. [sentence as heard] In Lebanon, when the country faces a crisis, officials are concerned with solving it. Do you know what concerns them? They are concerned with shirking the blame and looking for scapegoats. I mean, when a crisis faces society, this or that official does not immediately begin to think of what to do to solve the problem. He immediately begins to think of who to blame. If the time he spends in looking for someone to blame was spent looking for a solution, then he would certainly solve the crisis. The theory pursued over the past 15 years by the group of the 1943 state and those who support them, all of them, is that the Lebanese crisis will be resolved by disbanding the militias. Can you think of a more futile—there is a better word—a more shallow theory than this? Can you think of a more shallow, futile, and morbid theory than this? It is a theory that denies all the existing facts on the Lebanese crisis. Can you think of another theory that goes more against history, people, and people's dignity than this one?"

Dr. Ja'ja' placed the priorities for resolving the Lebanese crisis in the following framework:

"The solution of the Lebanese crisis lies first—naturally—in the departure of all foreign forces from Lebanon, and secondly, in the concurrent establishment of a new system for Lebanon that will make the Lebanese state strong enough to confront any future contingencies so that we may not face situations like the one we faced on 13 April 1975."

Dr. Ja'ja' referred to the overbearing tone used by some people. On this issue, he said:

"If we are being very responsive, this should not make anyone believe that he can take anything from us by force. Absolutely not. If they want to try force, then let us all try force. We are being responsive because we are fully convinced that we must try earnestly to implement a political solution that is proposed for the first time in the history of the Lebanese crisis. But let them not refer to steamrolling and use similar bravado. Let them leave that to other people, in other places. I am really astonished that, despite the situation in which we are living, some people think only of bravado and say things like: The legitimate government will take over by force. What do you mean take over by force? All of us are contributing to the process. At least we, the Lebanese Forces, are contributing to this process purposefully, very positively, with full awareness, and with the hope of attaining a peaceful solution in this country."

Dr. Ja'ja' declared that any proposal to appoint deputies [to vacant Chamber of Deputies seats] while the present government remains in power will constitute an obstruction to the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. He questioned the reason behind some people's insistence on implementing al-Ta'if piecemeal, monopolizing it, profiteering from it, or altering its course. He emphasized his rejection of any attempt to use al-Ta'if as a cover for blackmail and to attain personal ambitions. He added that it will be a very sorry process of establishing accord if a national accord government is not formed at the beginning. He noted that he has numerous questions about this matter.

Ja'ja' assured the citizens that what happened in the two al-Matn regions will not happen in al-Ashrafiyah. "I assure all the citizens of al-Ashrafiyah and [East] Beirut they should not have any doubts or anxiety about this. There is no possibility that what happened in the al-Matn regions will happen in al-Ashrafiyah—not a half percent of it. A major error occurred in the al-Matn regions. Everybody admits that this happened. The legitimacy is the first to admit that it happened. We urge the legitimate government to rectify this error as fast as possible. The lack of security in al-Matn has undoubtedly been a black mark on the path of national accord. This black mark must be removed before anything else is done so that the process can proceed normally."

Ja'ja' Calls For End to Violations in Al-Matn

NC0611073490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] In an interview with Voice of Lebanon, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that the current political argument will end at the same time that the security violations in the two al-Matn regions end. He said: The military war has been replaced by a political war. There are numerous parties to this political war and each party has expressed its view and stand. Why do they only point a finger at the Lebanese Forces' stand toward the al-Ta'if Accord? The Lebanese Forces are expressing their view and the view of those whom they represent with democracy and pride.

Dr. Ja'ja' expressed the Lebanese Forces' readiness to participate in a new government which includes all parties, regardless of their stand. He said: All must participate in the march of detente so that it will become real and comprehensive.

Asked whether the Lebanese Forces are the sole legitimate representatives of the Christians, Ja'ja' said: We do not claim to be the sole legitimate representatives of the Christians. We and other political, religious, and social figures consider ourselves to be the sole legitimate representatives of the Christians.

Dr. Ja'ja' stressed his readiness, in his capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Lebanese Forces, to enter into dialogue through the media with any political figure on any subject. He called for a serious dialogue. He said: If we do not seize this opportunity, the fate of Lebanon will be in question.

Pro-Ja'ja' Saboteurs Said Arrested in Al-Matn

NC0611065590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] A security source has revealed that the legitimate security forces arrested a group belonging to Ja'ja's forces in northern al-Matn yesterday. The group members confessed to planning sabotage and other aggressive acts against the security forces. The source noted that the competent authorities had been surveilling this group and managed yesterday to arrest all of its members.

These plans to carry out sabotage in an area recovered by the legitimate government come at a time when the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party continue to raise the issue of the two al-Matn areas and to exaggerate the reports about the security violations and excesses there.

Amal Said To Obstruct Implementation of Agreement

NC0311112690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] An information source in Hizballah has explained the reasons why a supply convoy failed to enter the besieged villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and the details of past meetings. He said that in accordance with meetings that were held in 'Anjar between Hizballah and the Amal Movement under the aegis of the Syrian and Iranian brothers, an agreement was reached on a cease-fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah and on bringing medical and food supplies and technical maintenance teams to repair the water-pipe network broken by the Amal Movement's bombardment of the area during recent acts of aggression. Agreement was also reached on evacuating the wounded and exchanging detainees and prisoners of war.

The source added: Another meeting was held at the Beau Rivage Hotel on Tuesday [30 October] evening. During the meeting, it was agreed that the social committee that includes representatives of both parties would meet the next day under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel Rustum Ghazalah, chief of the Syrian observers in Beirut, to implement that agreement. Following the social committee meeting in the presence of Lt. Col. Rustum, it was decided that a Red Cross convoy and technical maintenance teams would travel along the Sarba-'Ayn Qana road and implement the agreement Thursday [1 November] morning. The Amal Movement, however, obstructed the implementation by refusing to let the convoy travel along the agreed-upon road.

The source continued: Accordingly, we contacted our Syrian brothers and the Amal Movement leadership and were told that the convoy would enter Iqlim al-Tuffah along the aforesaid road Friday [2 November] morning. The Amal Movement representative, however, did not come at the fixed time. He came at 1330 to state that he refused to let the convoy enter Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Concluding his statement, the Hizballah source said: As we present the facts before everyone, we affirm to our kinfolk that the Amal Movement's intransigence is the reason for the water cut because it refused to let the technical maintenance teams in yesterday to repair the broken water network. It transpired that the Amal Movement's evading the implementation of the agreements is due to its ties to alliances and bargains with the pro-'Arafat Fatah group, which is considered a main partner of the Amal Movement in surrounding the resistance and the people of Iqlim al-Tuffah. This group has no interest in ending the problem between us and the Amal Movement.

Hizballah Releases Amal Captives in 'Goodwill'

LD0211203390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Following an agreement last night between the revolutionary Hizballah and Amal movements on a cease-fire and the release of captives, Hizballah of Lebanon released 10 Amal agents who were captured during Iqlim al-Tuffah clashes.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, a Hizballah official said that Hizballah's release of Amal captives is a sign of its goodwill and support for the valuable efforts of Iran and Syria to resolve the conflict between the two groups.

Commentary on 'Arafat's Iqlim Al-Tuffah Position

NC0411133690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Political commentary: 'Arafat is the Big Loser in Iqlim al-Tuffah]

[Excerpts] No one wanted the followers of Yasir 'Arafat to get involved in matters that are none of their concern. No one wanted to open fire at 'Arafat's followers, but they interfered to pour oil on the fire and to support a party that was waging an offensive against the positions of the Islamic resistance in Iqlim al-Tuffah. But, what can one do with those who reveled in the power they had in the camps, who take pride in their history of shadowy deals, and who seek gains from the fighting among two parties. [PLO officials] Zayd Wahbi and 'Ala' hope that the bloodshed will help them gain control of the South and hand it as a precious gift to 'Arafat, who cannot wait to return to Lebanon's South to resume his cheap practices and shadowy dealings in the region. [passage omitted]

It is bizarre that after all the mistakes that 'Arafat's followers have committed in Lebanon, they still insist on committing a few more. 'Arafat's followers are blocking the passage of provisions into Iqlim al-Tuffah villages. This blockade is either the result of a big political decision to trigger fighting once again in Iqlim al-Tuffah to foil the plan to deploy the Army there or is the result of sheer venom and political folly.

In the event that the aim of 'Arafat's followers, in coordination with some sick persons on the other side [the Amal Movement], is to rekindle the war in order to achieve what they failed to accomplish in the past, they are wrong. The situation has changed. The process of peace and reconciliation that is sponsored by al-Asad's Syria is not going to be thwarted by the dreams and ambitions of some misguided elements who are only skillful in bringing misfortune upon themselves and their helpless and downtrodden people.

We would have wanted those miserable adventurers of 'Arafat to correct their methods in the eleventh hour before we are obliged to record their odious deeds in a special file that is to be opened at the suitable time and on the appropriate day. We are confident that 'Arafat's followers will end up by paying dearly for their misdeeds and hypocrisy and that the faithful will not come to their support.

We cannot claim that we and our people will find it easy to forgive the viciousness of the intervention of 'Arafat's followers at the time of the great onslaught against the Islamic resistance in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It is better for them to mend their ways before it is too late and to demonstrate that with deeds—by facilitating the passage of provisions to the towns of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

If 'Arafat's followers wish to undermine the march of peace and reconciliation by obstructing a solution in Iqlim al-Tuffah, they will find themselves at loggerheads with all the Islamic and nationalist forces as well as with Syria, a country that has expressed an earnest desire to close the chapter of war in Iqlim al-Tuffah as well as elsewhere.

We do not think that 'Arafat will be capable of confronting such a coalition of powers in Lebanon after all the animosity he created in this country. 'Arafat sided with Michel 'Awn in his mutiny and wars and with Samir Ja'ja' in his crimes and massacres. 'Arafat has flirted with and backed all the adversaries of the nationalists, the Islamists, and Syria, at a great cost to this homeland and to the sacred Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

PFLP Official on Resistance in Southern Lebanon

NC0611092190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Palestinian presence in Lebanon is not a militia presence, Abu-Jabir, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] political bureau member, has told AL-DIYAR. He added that the PLO is fully prepared to start meetings and talks with the Lebanese Government in order to reach a common ground. He noted that the legitimate Lebanese Government will find that the PLO genuinely desires to cooperate fully.

Abu-Jabir noted that the military action is a legitimate right that they can exercize throughout the Lebanese territory. According to Abu-Jabir, since the Arab fronts with Israel are calm, anti-Israeli resistance will start in southern Lebanon.

Israelis Shell Villages, Conduct Mock Raids

NC0511182490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The occupation forces continued their attacks in the South. They directed an intensive artillery bombardment against the Jabal Safi heights from 1700 until 1920 today from their positions in al-Khiyam and al-Mansuriyah. The Qabrikha and Bra'shit areas in the central sector of the south were shelled at 1400 today by enemy tanks stationed in the Bra'shit hills and al-Shumariyah.

Israeli warplanes flew reconnaissance missions over Sidon and the nearby camps in the morning and afternoon, conducting mock raids. The planes were confronted with intensive antiaircraft fire.

Iranian-Hezbollah-Amal Meetings Continue

Officials Meet Hezbollah Leaders

LD0411085990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The members of the central council of the revolutionary Hezbollah movement of Lebanon met and conferred with First Vice President Habibi in Damascus last night.

During the meeting, which was held at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus and was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, the secretary general of the revolutionary Hezbollah movement of Lebanon, explained the views of the movement on the situation in Lebanon and the recent developments in that country. He also thanked Iran for its efforts to unify the various Muslim Lebanese groups and strengthen the Islamic resistance against the Zionist regime.

Mr. Habibi stressed the importance of the role of the Lebanese Muslims, particularly the revolutionary Hezbollah movement, in the struggle against Zionist plots. He declared Iran's support for the struggles of all Muslims.

Assembly, Second Round Held

LD0511160290 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, Nov. 5, IRNA—A quadilateral assembly by representatives from Iran, Syria, Hizballah, and Amal met here today.

The Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', secretary general of the Hizballah Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, and head of the Amal Movement Nabih Birri participated in the assembly.

Velayati said that any discrepancy and clash between Muslim groups in Lebanon will be to the detriment of Islam. He said the Muslim people of Lebanon should expend the entirety of their resources solely on their struggle against the Zionist regime, and added that Iran and Syria will pool all their resources for halting the current clashes.

He voiced support for the struggle of Lebanon's Muslim people against the Zionist regime and expressed hope that the joint assembly between the Amal Movement and Hizballah would help end the clashes between the two Shi'ite groups.

Meanwhile, a second round of talks between Iran and Syria was headed here today between First Vice President of Iran Dr. Hasan Habibi and Vice President of Syria 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. In their talks the two sides reviewed the present situation in Lebanon, and proposed ways for ending the clashes between the Amal and Hizballah. The two sides stressed that any confrontation between the two Muslim groups in Lebanon would work against the anti-Zionist goals of both sides. They also expressed hope that the Amal and Hizballah would solve their problems and instead devote their capacity to fighting against the Zionist regime.

'Text' of Agreement

JN0511192490 Damascus Syrian Television Network in Arabic 1840 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] At the conclusion of the talks held today at the Foreign Ministry between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, an agreement was reached between the two sides. The agreement was signed for the Amal Movement by Nabih Birri, head of the Movement, and for Hizballah by Skaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general. This agreement was reached under the auspices of Syria and Iran. The Syrian side was represented by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Iranian side was represented by Foreign Minister Dr. Ali Akhbar Velayati, in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kana'an and [Iranian] Ambassador Muhammad Hasan Akhtari. The following is the text of the agreement:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. An agreement between Amal Movement and Hizballah.

1. The two sides will be committed to extending facilities and removing obstacles for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon in accordance with the development of its ability to enforce law and order.
2. Full implementation of the Damascus agreement. In the case of disagreement on the content of any of its articles, the two parties must adhere to the interpretation suggested by the representatives of Syria and Iran.
3. The return of all those evacuated as a result of the internecine fighting between the two sides to their areas, villages, and homes.
4. Forming a committee to supervise and follow up on the implementation of the agreement comprising Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kana'an and Ambasador Akhtari
5. Taking into consideration the appendix to the Damascus agreement, and in case of a violation by either of the two parties, the injured party must inform the committee in order to control the problem. The committee will then immediately convene to take the necessary action to deter the violator within a maximum period of 48 hours. In case of a criminal offense, the accused will be handed over to the concerned authorities.
6. This agreement will be implemented as of 10 November 1990.

[Dated] Damascus, 5 November 1990.

Al-Shar', Velayati Comment

JN0611073490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of the talks held yesterday at the Foreign Ministry between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, an agreement was reached between the two sides. [passage omitted]

Following the signing of the agreement last night, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri, and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli answered journalists' questions.

Faruq al-Shar' said the Damascus Agreement [signed last year by Amal and Hizballah] is an article in the agreement and an important part of it, which will help end all disputes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah and achieve security and peace in Lebanon. Mr. al-Shar' said there are new items in the agreement as a result of the changes that have taken place since the signing of the Damascus Agreement. He said: The Damascus Agreement is an important part of this agreement.

Asked about supporting the legitimate government in establishing greater Beirut, al-Shar' said: Of course, we are committed to supporting the Lebanese Government in all its measures. Answering another question on whether the agreement will be partial or comprehensive, Mr. al-Shar' said the agreement is comprehensive. In response to a question on escalating the resistance in southern Lebanon, Mr. al-Shar' said: Of course. The Damascus Agreement contains an important paragraph on supporting the national and Islamic resistance in their struggle to remove the occupying Israeli forces from southern Lebanon.

On including the Lebanese Army in a comprehensive battle along with the resistance, he said: There is a clear resolution issued by the UN Security Council, No. 425, which stipulates the withdrawal of Israel from southern Lebanon without any preconditions or restrictions. Asked if he could guarantee that the agreement would be clearly implemented, al-Shar' said: We are confident that the two parties, Hizballah and Amal Movement, will strictly comply with the provisions of this agreement, and we hope that this agreement will be completely and strictly implemented.

Regarding the return of the evacuees and rebuilding of Iqlim al-Tuffah, the minister said: There is a clear item in the agreement we reached stipulating the return of all evacuees to their areas, villages, and homes.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati also answered journalists' questions after that. Asked about how the agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah can help the two parties overcome their problems, he said: As my brother Faruq al-Shar' pointed out, we are pleased to see that our brothers in the Amal Movement and Hizballah have reached a comprehensive agreement and added some other solutions to the Damascus Agreement, which was signed by the two parties in 1989 under the auspices of Iran and Syria. We also hope that under this agreement our brothers in Lebanon and Beirut will be able to end their problems.

Answering another question on how he evaluates the results of what happened in Lebanon after ending the state of rebellion lead by 'Awn, Velayati said: We believe that is a victory for the Lebanese people, because the presence of 'Awn in east Beirut was an element that kept the division between the two parts of the capital. We are now happy to find that the two parts of Lebanon's capital have become united. We hope the Lebanese people will succeed in overcoming all the difficulties they were facing.

Answering a question on whether he believes the problems between Hizballah and Amal have ended forever, he said: We hope the differences between the brothers will not return. According to what we have understood from the brothers, we believe that they are determined not to continue or repeat the differences that existed between them. As I said, Iran and Syria guarantee what they have signed, and this is our hope.

Regarding his evaluation of the agreement, he said: We are happy to solve the problems that existed between the two sides, which we hope have ended the disputes between the two groups. We hope these differences, which neither side was happy about, have gone for good.

Amal Movement Leader Nabih Birri and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli also answered journalists' questions, affirming their complete adherence to the agreement.

Third Round Held

LD0611112890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The third round of talks between the Iranian and Syrian delegations, headed respectively by Habibi and Khaddam, vice presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria were held this morning in Damascus. The two countries' foreign ministers were also present.

According to the Central News Unit, in these talks the two parties expressed satisfaction at the convening of the quadripartite session of Iran, Syria, Amal, and Hizballah movements of Lebanon and declared that the end of clashes between these two groups and the establishment of stability and calm in Lebanon is a vital necessity. They also expressed the hope that the potentials of the Islamic and national forces in Lebanon will be deployed in the struggle against the regime occupying Jerusalem.

In these talks, the two sides declared their readiness for continued exchanges of high-ranking delegations between the two countries aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

Minister on Plans To Send More Troops to Gulf

JN0411124190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman today said that Syria has decided to dispatch more troops, including an armored division, to the Arabian Gulf. The Syrian minister added that those troops will reinforce the Syrian military presence in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Asad Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

JN0411173890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] At 1300 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus, attended the meeting.

Shaykh Sabah gave his excellency the president a letter from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. His excellency the president gave him a reply letter.

Foreign Minister Returns, Describes Jeddah Talks

JN0111142590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus today after concluding his talks with Saudi officials. During the visit he also met with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the Egyptian president's office director for political affairs. He was seen off at Jeddah airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Syrian consul general in Jeddah, and senior Saudi Foreign Ministry officials.

In a predeparture statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent, al-Shar' expressed satisfaction with his talks with the Saudi and Egyptian sides. He stressed the importance of the subjects that were discussed, studied, and evaluated. The foreign minister said: We agreed to continue these meetings on all levels among the three countries and with the other Arab states, in view of the immense responsibilities borne by the three Arab states in the current critical circumstances, with the aim of improving the Arab situation and rectifying its course, especially finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis in accordance with the emergency Arab summit and safeguarding the supreme interests of the Arab nation.

Education Minister Opens Science Conference

JN0311153190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Sponsored by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, a function was held at Damascus University today launching the 30th science week organized by the higher Science Council. Around 332 scientists and researchers from sisterly Arab and friendly states are taking part. [passage omitted]

The event was opened on behalf of his excellency the president by Minister of Higher Education Dr. Kamal Sharaf, who is also the chairman of the science higher council. [passage omitted]

A minute's silence was then observed in memory of our scientists and virtuous martyrs who have given themselves for the homeland and the nation.

In the opening speech Dr. Kamal Sharaf stressed that the high regard in which scientists, researchers, and innovators are held by his excellency the president bespeaks his elevation of science, our nation and its past, and an unsurpassed inheritance. [passage omitted]

On the Gulf crisis, Dr. Sharaf said that Syria has consistently stated through its party and the leader of its march toward liberation, development, and prosperity that we will not take the side of aggressors, but take a stand against injustice and aggression until the right cause triumphs. We have always been opposed to forcible annexation and settlement, whether initiatied by foe or friend or brother. He emphasized that we are at one with the Arab and international calls for a return to the status quo ante in the Gulf—specifically the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal [from Kuwait] and the reinstatement of legitimacy.

On Lebanon, Dr. Sharaf reiterated that Syria stands for the country's unity, the reassertion of state authority, and the liberation of southern Lebanon.

The president's representative declared that Jewish immigration into occupied Palestine tells a story of defiance and a determination to usurp the rights of the [Palestinian] people and fly in the face of their struggle. And yet, he added, the United States persists in backing and reinforcing Israel in various fields to make sure it remains the region's menacing, striking force, and to whet its appetite for further expansion and aggression.

Commentary Says Arab Battles Serve Israel

JN0311082990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today is the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration. While we recall that ill-omened day in our nation's contemporary history, we want this bitter anniversary to be a lesson, not merely a repetition of certain words that have lost their weight and meaning. With the declaration, those who did not own the Palestinian land gave it to those who had no right to it. This defined the cultural, political, military, and educational features of the confrontation between the Arab nation and its enemies.

The Zionist entity, which derived its legitimacy from the British colonialist project in the region on the basis of the Balfour Declaration, was established to keep the Arab region under the influence of past, present, and future forms of colonialism. This entity was moved from British auspices and placed under the auspices of the United States and the West in general. However, the purpose of creating that entity in the heart of the Arab homeland has never changed.

From the beginning, Israel played its role in serving the new and old colonialist project. It is still playing that role to foil pan-Arab plans to achieve unity and liberation and create the enlightened Arab citizen and implement the great civilized human project.

Hence, there should be a pan-Arab confrontation of that entity and its supporters, and any battle apart from that pan-Arab confrontation will serve the Zionist entity and its colonialist protectors in the region. Every secondary Arab battle apart from our conflict with the Zionist entity falls within this framework. We would not shun truth if we likened our present situation to another one. After the 1967 aggression, the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir realized that in order to use the pan-Arab efforts to remove the traces of the aggression, Egypt's involvement should end and Arab cohesion should be restored to confront the Zionist enemy and its imperialist allies. That position expressed a profound pan-Arab vision of the nature of the confrontation and deprived the enemy of any chance to exploit the Yemeni war to achieve its plans and goals.

Saddam's war against Iran was one of these secondary battles from which the Zionist and its protectors benefited. But the invasion of Kuwait is the most dangerous secondary problem for the Arab nation in its conflict with the Zionist enemy. This invasion of an Arab country by another Arab country has divided the Arabs, destroyed confidence among the Arab states themselves, and distracted the nation's attention from its principal struggle against Zionism. Although this invasion is covered with false pan-Arab slogans and is described as a step toward the liberation of Palestine, the truth is far from it. Israel has exploited the invasion by absorbing more Soviet Jewish immigrants, escalated its massacres against the people of the occupied homeland, and continued its settlement, expansionist, and policy of annexation of the occupied Arab territories. Washington also has exploited the invasion of Kuwait by reinforcing the Israeli arms arsenal and extending more aid to settle Jews in the occupied territories. Even France has joined other Western enthusiasts to extend aid to Israel to settle the immigrants in the Arab territories without any consideration of the Arab right to that land.

What does all this mean? It means that while we, as an Arab nation, recall the Balfour Declaration, the first seed in the colonialist-imperialist project against the pan-Arab project in our Arab homeland, we should not forget the fateful confrontation of the Zionist entity and the Zionist movement, as well as every party supporting this entity and this movement to achieve its goals in the Arab homeland. We should not serve the entity and its protectors by creating dangerous peripheral inter-Arab confrontations that will only cause disaster to the Arabs themselves.

If the Iraqi rulers really want to stage a struggle against the Zionist entity, they should do what the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir did when he decided to withdraw from Yemen in order to build Arab solidarity and confront Israeli aggression and ambitions. If Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, Arab solidarity, cohesion, and joint Arab efforts can be restored to confront the Zionist danger. Finally, if this occurs, marking the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration will have meaning.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Congratulates Gorbachev on GOSR

LD0311225690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] A message by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to M.S. Gorbachev on the occasion of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR], has been sent to Moscow with the following text:

Your Esteemed Excellency: I am pleased to congratulate you and the Government of the Soviet Union and its people, on behalf of myself and the government and people of the Republic of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The constructive efforts of the Soviet Union, in line with the spirit of new political thinking in the international arena—for arms reduction, for safeguarding peace, for ensuring international security, and for normalizing the situation in the region—are respected in Afghanistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan has taken advantage of all opportunities so that the national reconciliation policy is implemented in our country and the normalization of the situation in the region is assisted, through the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. With full confidence in the consolidation of friendly relations and bilateral cooperation, which conforms with the interests of both our countries, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan has relied and continues to rely on the support of the Government of the Soviet Union, the neighbor and friend of the people of Afghanistan, for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy and the political resolution of the Afghan problem.

Najibullah Seeks Public Opinion on End to War

BK0511143690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 5 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah is seeking opinions from residents here on how to end the country's 12-year war which has claimed more than one million lives, a spokesman said here Monday. Mr. Najibullah has asked prominent Afghans, senior bureaucrats, military commanders and politicians to make their suggestions either individually or collectively at a meeting Thursday, Spokesman Humayun Mokamel said.

"The first such meeting with the president will begin on Thursday. It will be a continuing process and more time will be given to accomodate all," Mr. Mokamel said. He gave mr. Najibullah's telephone number and said all members of the public—with the exception of foreign journalists—could seek to be included in the meetings starting Thursday.

Mr. Mokamel said that during the sessions people would be welcome to offer proposals on how to improve Kabul's tottering economy and severe living conditions. Diplomats here saw the plan as a move by Mr. Najibullah to try to take the initiative again with peace plans, all of which have so far been rejected out of hand by the mujahidin resistance. The 43-year-old president launched his peace offensive with the lifting of a state of emergency on May 3 and since then has tried to introduce economic and political pluralism.

However, the mujahidin have dismissed the reforms as "cosmetic" and dubbed his peace moves "a farce," while continuing their ground war to overthrow the Soviet-backed government and force Mr. Najibullah to step down before any peace negotiations start. Mr. Najibullah, for his part, has tried to distance himself and his ruling Watan (Homeland) Party from the pro-communist revolution which brought the party to power in 1978.

'Extremists' Attack Qalat City; Army Responds

LD0311070990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0431 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 2, BAKHTAR—The Pak-backed extremists fired ground-to-ground rockets on residential areas of Qalat City, centre of Zabol Province, 450 km southwest of Kabul which resulted in killing one civilian and destroying of five dwellings; some houses were partially damaged on Nov. 1, 1990 reports a BAKHTAR military correspondent.

The government Armed Forces retaliated, killed 42 extremists and injured 18 others. Report adds, during these operations 17 vehicles of the enemies loaded with arms and ammunitions were also destroyed.

Based on another report, the government Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province by inflecting crushing blows on extremists in Marko and Fathabad regions, killed over 20 extremists including two Wahibis and destroyed. Besides, the government security organs have discovered and defused 21 kg of explosives hidden in a crowded corner of the Chazrikar city, Parvan Province, for killing innocent civilians today.

Clashes Reported Among Rebels

LD0211181390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] As a result of internal disagreement among the Gulbuddin and Rabbani extremists groups recently, heavy clashes have taken place in some parts of Badakhshan, Takhar, Konduz, Baghlan, and Parwan Provinces.

The BIA military section reports that as a result of these clashes, during which both sides resorted to heavy weapons, 37 were killed, including 'Abdullah, Zadiq, Shahbuddin, and Saleh, four ringleaders of the mentioned groups, and a number were injured.

According to another report from Fayab Province, as a result of clashes among the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi, 36 were killed on both sides and 39 others were injured. Also as a result of clashes among the extremists groups of Khales and Mujaddedi in some parts of Nangarhar Province, a vehicle carrying arms and ammunition was captured by men of the Khales extremist group.

India

Defense Minister Meets SRV Staff General

BK0611094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] General Doan Khue, chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army, who is on a visit to India, called on the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna, in New Delhi yesterday. General Khue also held discussions with the chief of the Army Staff, General Rodriguez and the chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Nadkarni. During his six-day tour, General Doan Khue will be visiting various defense installations at Agra, Pune, and Bangalore.

Gandhi Hints Support for Front Without Singh

BK0311094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that his party is ready to consider supporting the National Front government if there is a change in its leadership. He was speaking to newsmen in Singheri. Mr. Gandhi said the nation needs a healing touch and his party is willing to work against both communalism and casteism. He criticized the National Front government for its failure on all fronts. He said the Congress-I has supported the Chimanbhai Patel ministry in Gujarat because it is putting up a fight against both communalism and casteism.

Gandhi's Party To Work With Shekhar Group

BK0611092590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that his party will work with the Chandra Shekhar group and the modalities of cooperation are being finalized to form a new government. The two leaders met for about an hour at Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's residence this morning.

Later, Mr. Chandra Shekhar called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidential house]. He told waiting newsmen that he did not stake his claim to form a government, saying that the stage has not yet come. Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who was elected leader by the dissident Janata Dal MPs [members of parliament] yesterday, had a series of parleys with his colleagues since early this morning, culminating in a meeting with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. Emerging out of their discussions, both the leaders did not spell out immediately whether they would go in for a coalition government. Mr. Gandhi said Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao and the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel will be working out the details of the nature of cooperation between the Congress-I and the Janata Dal faction led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar, who declined to comment on his party's position after the meeting, said he is confident of working together with the Congress-I. He emphatically spoke in the negative to a question on whether their union might go the 1979 way [when Congress-I supported Charan Singh's government, the government collapsed]. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he is quite sure that the past will not be repeated. Asked to comment about the expulsion from the Janata Dal parliamentary party, he said let them do whatever they want to do. The Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and the former Congress general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, were also present during Mr. Gandhi's meeting with the Janata Dal leader. Mr. Pawar said he has also been asked to associate himself in the consultations.

Our correspondent says the capital is buzzing with political activity with both the Janata Dal factions working out their strategies for tomorrow's crucial special session of the Lok Sabha. The one-day session has been called to enable the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, to demonstrate his majority support on the floor of the house following the withdrawal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] backing. The leaders of the official Janata Dal group met at Mr. V.P. Singh's residence to finalize their next course of action. The Chandra Shekhar group met at the residence of Manubhai Kataria. A spokesman of the group said that they have communicated to the Lok Sabha speaker about yesterday's developments in the party.

The speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, had a meeting with the floor leaders of different parties on the eve of the session. Details of the meeting are not yet available. Meanwhile, the Congress-I has urged the speaker to give priority to their motion of no-confidence at tomorrow's sitting. The Congress-I and the BJP have tabled notices of no-confidence in the V.P. Singh government. But, according to the list of business circulated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the motion tabled by the prime minister for confidence vote in his government only has been admitted.

Congress-I Supports Ruling Party Dissidents

BK0511125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Janata Dal has split into factions led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh as efforts to forge an alternative government gained momentum. Meeting at the residence of Mr. Devi Lal, the dissidents MPs [members of parliament] elected

Mr. Chandra Shekhar and removed Mr. V.P. Singh claiming that they represent the real Janata Dal Parliamentary Party.

The Congress-I has welcomed Mr. Chandra Shekhar's election and reiterated its stand that the party will offer constructive cooperation to the government formed by an alternative leader of the Janata Dal. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen that Mr. Chandra Shekhar will be meeting Mr. Rajiv Gandhi tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, armed with a mandate of the parliamentary party to deal with the political crisis, the prime minister has expelled Mr. Chandra Shekhar and 24 others members of the Lok Sabha and five members of the Rajya Sabha from the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party for anti-party activities. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, told our correspondent that the decision was taken with the concurrence of the party, Mr. S.R. Bommai. Among those expelled are Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, Mr. Manobhai Kotadia, and Mrs. Maneka Gandhi—who have resigned from the government, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, Mr. Kamal Morarka, and Dr. Sanjay Singh. [passage omitted]

The left parties, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], the CPI, Forward Bloc, and the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party] have deplored the action of those who have split away from the Janata Dal Parliamentary Party at a time when the country is facing a critical situation. In a statement issued in New Delhi today, the general secretaries of these parties reiterated their support to the confidence motion to be moved by Mr. V.P. Singh on Wednesday [7 November]. The signatories to the statement are Mr. E.M.S. Namboodripad, Mr. Indreajit Gupta, Mr. Chitta Basu, and Mr. Treedip Chowdhury.

Congress-I Accused of Setting Janata Dal Split

BK0511160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has accused the Congress-I of having engineered a split in the Janata Dal. Talking to reporters after a meeting of the Telugu Desam party, a constituent of the five-party National Front government, he said a mid-term poll can be an immediate solution to the present political crisis.

Report has just come in that the Janata Dal parliamentary party secretary, Mr. Ajay Singh, has alleged that a large number of his party MPs have been confined somewhere in Haryana by some interested parties to prevent them from voting in parliament on Wednesday [7 November]. In a letter to the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, he urged him to take suitable action as the matter involves a breach of privilege of the members.

Janata Dal Leader Opposes National Government

BK0411150790 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Senior Janata Dal leader, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told newsmen this evening that there are a requisite number of Janata Dal members in the Lok Sabha on their side to prevent a mid-term poll. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that mid-term elections at this stage would be disastrous. When asked if he foresees a split in the Janata Dal, he said he would try to avoid it, but nothing can be ruled out. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he did not approve of the idea of a national government.

Advani Not To Support Any Party, Urges Repoll

BK0411160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, who has been released from detention has said that his party will not extend support to any party to form a government at the center. Addressing a crowded news conference shortly after his arrival in New Delhi from Bihar this afternoon, he said ad hoc arrangements will not help in solving the present political crisis. Mr. Advani said a fresh mandate should be sought to enable the electorate to come face to face with the problems. Accusing the government of mishandling the temple issue, the BJP president said his arrest was unlawful. Replying to a question, Mr. Advani said with a sizeable section of the Janata Dal coming openly against the leadership and withdrawal of support by his party, the V.P. Singh government has no moral or political right to continue in office.

Violence Reported During Delhi Strike

BK0511130490 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In Delhi, a bundh [strike] is being observed. The call for the bundh was given by the Bharatiya Janata Party in protest against the police action in Uttar Pradesh. According to the police, glass panes of some office buildings were broken and a police post was burnt in Northwest Delhi. Most of the markets are closed. The DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] is not plying the buses. Some private vehicles are on the road. Incidents of stone- throwing, damage of vehicles, and road blockade have been reported from different parts of the capital.

Radio, TV Workers Call Off Agitation

BK0511161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The government has issued a notification constituting the Indian Broadcasting Program Service. According to the notification issued in New Delhi today, the constitution of this Group A service is in fulfillment of a long-standing aspiration of the program cadre officials of All India Radio and Doordarshan [television]. Over 1,000 officers presently serving in different cadres in the electronic media will be included in the service. Following the issuance of the notification, the program staff association of All India Radio and Doordarshan has called off their agitation.

Communal Violence in Various States Reported

BK0211161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] In Gujarat, seven persons were burned to death at Morwa Village in Panchmahal District last night. In Ahmedabad, three persons died of stabbing and one person was killed in Baroda. The chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, said his government has asked for six more companies of paramilitary forces from the center to deal with the situation.

In Bihar, the death toll in the riot-torn Patna City goes to five with two persons dying in group clashes during the two-hour curfew relaxation period. The Army staged a flag march in the curfew-bound areas. The situation in Ranchi is peaceful and the curfew was relaxed for 12 hours.

In Madhya Pradesh, an indefinite curfew was imposed in six police stations of Jabalpur City following violent incidents last night. Police have arrested above 100 persons. The situation in the curfew-bound Indore, Mau, and Devas towns is said to be peaceful.

In Andhra Pradesh, police opened fire on a violent mob in Kinna Golkonda Village of Rangareddy District late last night, resulting in the death of one person. The situation in the curfew-bound twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is peaceful.

Border Policemen Killed by Naga 'Extremists'

BK0211170990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] In Manipur, six BSF [Border Security Force] personnel, including a deputy commandant, were killed and five injured in an ambush by Naga extremists today. Official sources said the incident took place at (Kuminkadi) area of Imphal-More National Highway when a BSF party was proceeding toward the border town of More. The injured have been admitted to the hospital. The chief minister, Mr. R.K. Ranbir Singh, has expressed shock over the incident. He appealed to the extremists to lay down arms and participate in a political dialogue to help bring peace in the region.

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 17 in Single Action

BK0511031890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists killed 17 persons in one single action near the border town of Gurdaspur last evening. A spokesman said that a gang of terrorists opened indiscriminate fire after stopping scooterists and cyclists returning home after the day's work near Village Pandori. The killed included one police head constable. Senior police officials, along with reinforcement, rushed to the spot and have since launched a big search for the culprits.

In Ferozepore District, a hard-core terrorist—Ranjit Singh alias Tinda—was killed and two security force personnel, including a subinspector, were injured in an encounter near Village Lohan. Involved in a large number of terrorist crimes, he carried a reward of 1 lakh rupees on his head.

In Sangrur District, terrorists ambushed a police party, killing a police assistant subinspector and a head constable in the Ahmadgarh area.

In Gurdaspur District, 14 persons were injured in a powerful bomb blast in a cinema hall in Pathankot last evening.

Iran

Speaker Karrubi Assails U.S. Presence in Gulf

LD0411115290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] At this morning's open session of the Majles, the Speaker. Mr. Karrubi, who was presiding, made a speech commemorating the 13 Aban [4 November] Day of God, the national day of struggle against global arrogance. Remarking on the anniversary of the exile of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may he be admitted to God's paradise—the occupation of the U.S. den of spies, and the day of the pupils, Mr. Karrubi praised the courageous Muslim youths who, through their occupation of the U.S. den of spies, brought to an end U.S. domination of Iran, and paid tribute to 24 of those youths who were martyred on the battlefront.

Reading extracts from Imam Khomeyni's 1964 message issued on the occasion of the endorsement of the capitulation bill by the Mansur government, he termed the struggles of our great imam at that juncture as fateful and unprecedented.

In his speech, Mr. Karrubi condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; referring to the issue of a series of resolutions by the UN Security Council, he remarked on the double standards of the Security Council in regard to the regional crisis and the atrocities perpetrated by the Zionists against the Muslim Palestinian nation.

Elsewhere in his speech, the speaker of the Majles said: How is it that America sheds crocodile tears for Kuwait and Bush speaks of Iraq's violation of human rights in that country, while the brains of Palestinian children are being blown by Zionist bullets, and yet the U.S. leaders merely issue a trivial statement in which they call on the Israelis to exercise a little self-restraint?

Stressing the Zionist crimes in the land of the revelation, the Majles speaker said: The issue is not that of the Iraqi invasion; what is important and should be heeded by all people is that America has come to the Persian Gulf for the sake of the oil, and to spread its domination, and above all to confront the Islamic revolution and the Muslim forces of the region.

Combatant 'Ulema Urges U.S. Expulsion From Gulf

LD0111221990 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 1, IRNA—The Association of Combatant Ulema on Thursday [1 November] urged vigilant and revolutionary Muslims all over the world to fight by all means against U.S. presence in the Islamic world until it is forced out of the holy Muslim lands humiliated.

In a statement issued here, the association called on world Muslims to intensify their outcry and resistance against the U.S., noting that "the struggle against the U.S. is of greater importance this year."

The statement was issued on the eve of the 4th of November which marks the anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. den of espionage (embassy) in Tehran, the exile of the late Imam Khomeyni to Turkey by the former regime in 1963 and the killing of scores of students at the Tehran University by the shah's agents in 1979.

It also lashed out at Saudi rulers for allowing deployment of foreign and anti-Islamic forces near the holy sanctuaries and for their struggle against Islam and Muslims.

"The mercenary rulers of Saudi Arabia who after years of fighting against the revolutionary Islam and massacring pilgrims of the Allah's house are now playing host to foreign and anti-islamic forces should be responsive before the great Islamic ummah," it said.

The Abrahamaite hajj pilgrimage should be performed coupled with demonstrations against the U.S. and Israel by all anti-U.S. forces, it said. Nation-wide rallies are to be staged in Iran on November 4, named as the 'day of struggle against global arrogance.'

TEHRAN TIMES Comments on Gulf Crisis

Views Prospects of Gulf War

NC0111142690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Peaceful Solution Only Way Out of Persian Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] Any resolution to the Persian Gulf crisis outside of the use of military force will be most welcome news. However the U.S. President George Bush's Friday [5 October] address to the Congress did not rule out the use of force although it presented the Iraqi regime with other options for a face-saving backdown. President Bush's speech did not seem to heed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's optimism the previous day that the crisis was unlikely to erupt into a conflagration.

It is obvious that any irreversible confrontation breaking out into a full-scale war can only lead to a near global upheaval to the detriment of the parties to the conflict and to many others besides. It will not only be the West that will be hurt beyond measure. All countries dependent for their economies on Middle Eastern oil will certainly be bound to feel the effects of a devastating conflict. A peaceful solution can be the only one that can possibly avert a catastrophe of such divergent and harmful proportions.

It should not be forgotten that any such step into an area of conflict will only harden the attitudes of people in this region in an anti-U.S. and anti-Western direction. There is already the growing fear that the U.S. and its allies may be intending to stay put and control the oil supplies to the world from this strategic region.

Besides, those favoring a military solution to the present crisis should understand that they may only be taking the first step towards creating a world economic recession by throttling crucial oil supplies to a good part of the world. War never did make for viable solutions to economic woes in the long run. Hence the U.S. and the West should think and think carefully before launching on moves ahead.

On the other hand there is very little possibility of a war being started by Iraq, even though today in certain places Saddam has found anti-American supporters. But if Iraq had not launched its aggression on Kuwait and had not injured the feelings of world public opinion, it could today stand along with other Moslem countries of the region as a powerful state with a resolute anti-American and anti-Israeli stand. And foreign forces then can never justify their military presence in the region. Then the Moslem countries of the region could have established a powerful antiarrogance front.

Need To Oppose Gulf 'Plot'

NC0111155290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Conspiracies Can Only Backfire"]

[Text] The Speaker of the Iranian Majlis (Parliament) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi sent a message last Wednesday to the meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held in Uruguay in which he said: "We attract the attention of the world's people to the new U.S. and global imperialism's plot for deviating public opinion from the Persian Gulf crisis and the ambiguous solution of Kuwait's occupation with the possibility of changing the geopolitical map of the region. "We clearly see this plan in the making." [quotation marks as published]

The sensitivity of the Persian Gulf region is known to all countries of the world. Crises in this region have considerable effect on the world economy and therefore its stability and security is vital for the world's welfare. In view of this, the current Persian Gulf crisis should be solved in such a manner as not to exacerbate the situation and not to create fresh crises, where their solutions could be very complicated indeed.

In connection with the scenario to change the geography of the region, it should be warned that such schemes will not only hinder stability and security in the region but will instead create conditions that could be very dangerous and whose solution will be very difficult. Any such a conspiracy would be met with a widespread resistance.

It should be noted that the Moslem people of the region, with their strong belief and growth in political awareness, will never allow the geography of the region to be changed for the purpose of creating new centers to strengthen Israel's stability or establish new bases for foreigners.

Even if initial steps were to be taken for the execution of such a scheme, there would be strong resistance from the indigenous population and would produce an ensuing situation with such an impact on the world economy and with an outcome that could be no less dangerous than a world war.

In short, any solo effort with respect to the current crisis and plans for changing the geography of the region will create new and unpredictable conditions. For avoiding such a catastrophe, the crisis should be solved strictly in the framework of United Nations decisions and at the initiatives of the Moslem countries of the region. Only in this way can the present crisis and without worsening, and only with the cooperation and coordination of regional countries can a new and satisfactory order in the region be created.

Paper Views Resumption of Relations With Iraq

NC0411193990 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Oct 90 pp 1, 12

[Seyyed Rasul Sadat-Nezhad Editorial: "Diplomatic Relations Between Iran and Iraq"]

[Text] Following the correspondence between the Iranian and Iraqi presidents, and the subsequent measures which culminated in the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers Accord by Iraq and its withdrawal to international borders, there seems to be only one question now: Is the establishment of diplomatic relations necessary between the two countries once a peace treaty is signed?

The answer is contained within the question. There is a group that believes that the official end to the war does not require the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. It appears, however, that the Islamic Republic of Iran has studied the issue of resuming diplomatic relations and this can be explained as follows:

1. After Iran, Iraq has the largest Shiite population. Despite being locked in a bloody military battle for many years, the two countries still have strong and deep traditional, religious, ethnic, and cultural ties. The establishment and preservation of everything that brings the two nations closer is being considered a necessary principle of the two countries' diplomatic ties. Even now, Iran's religious interests lie in the holy sites such as Karbala, Najaf, and Kazemayn. In today's dynamic diplomacy, most countries do not sever relations with each other even in a state of hostility, especially if one party has some power over the other!

2. Iran cannot afford to remain indifferent to Iraq's future. Under any circumstance, we have an important neighbor from whom we can reap extensive benefits, but we should also remain vigilant to the possible dangers that could threaten us in this regard. In its present position or in any other, Iraq is an important neighbor. Establishment of relations can easily be incorporated by countries according to their internal circumstances and can be adapted appropriately to new or changing conditions.

3. If the problem of the POW's had been resolved before any peace accord was signed, perhaps the need for relations could have been questioned. We still have a large number of Iranian citizens in Iraq as well as many descendants of Iranians who have no legitimate shelter. In war everything is abnormal; it is not expected that two countries at war should consider themselves obligated to uphold the rights of one another's citizens. In conditions of peace, however, both sides consider themselves accountable to one another and the establishment of diplomatic relations provides a suitable means for legal recourse regarding the vindication of national rights.

4. An extremely important issue in the Persian Gulf region for many years is that of balance and equilibrium. In principle, the international equilibrium in the Persian Gulf depends upon Iran and Iraq. These two countries have not yet experimented in a serious concurrence on jointly directing the problems of the region. Rivalry and hostility have always been an element in such a balance and equilibrium.

Finally, there is the factor that when the Islamic Republic of Iran decides a moment is opportune, it can reopen the embassies in the two countries. The bolstering of diplomatic exchanges at experts' levels will be fruitful in this regard. If there is no other negative aspect to be perceived, the plan to reopen the embassies may serve to convince the Iraqi Government that it should speed up the process of an official end to the war; instead of treating the issue of POW's as minor, it should view it from the angle of the joint interests of the two countries.

*Commentary on Rafsanjani's Persian Gulf Position

91AS0083X London KEYHAN in Persian
18 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] After Iraq's attack on Kuwait and the rapid and massive deployment of American troops to Saudi Arabia, there were detailed and heated discussions in the

Islamic Republic's Supreme Security Council on this subject of what position the Tehran regime ought to take regarding the huge crisis that has arisen. In propaganda, should it give priority to attacking the occupation of Kuwait, or to the massive presence of American troops?

No clear policy emerged from those talks. Opposition to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and at the same time repeating slogans against America's military presence was the compromise solution which the Tehran regime adopted for a time.

While it protested Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait, the Tehran regime smiled at Baghdad. This pleasant facade was not merely to create some distance from the eight-year war. There were two other principal reasons: If in this episode America is defeated again as badly as it was during the 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] hostage incident in Tehran, the Islamic Republic could also gain something from it and all the gains would not be credited to Iraq, and second, Iraq will not get a monopoly on mobilizing anti-Western and above all anti-American feelings among the Arab masses, and Saddam Husayn will not replace Khomeyni as the new Muslim "hero" in the struggle against "imperialism."

Apparently the Tehran regime has not thought much about what will happen to the Islamic government that has allied with its old enemy if Saddam Husayn loses the dangerous game he has started. However, Hafiz al-Asad's very important visit to Tehran wiped the slate clean. Al-Asad convinced his counterparts in the Islamic Republic, especially 'Ali Khamene'i, who was infatuated with the idea of making this an anti-American struggle, that if the Islamic Republic alligns itself or sympathizes with Saddam, it will gain only if he loses, not if he wins.

Thus the Tehran regime abandoned the idea of connecting Iran's oil pipeline network to Iraq's oil lines and creating the first important breach in the military-economic embargo against Iraq. To clarify his government's position once and for all, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who was opposed to a tactical alliance with Iraq from the first day, chose to do something that is not that common today in the Islamic Republic: for the first time since he became president of the republic, he gave an interview to a foreign news correspondent (from the French newspaper LE MONDE), saying he will implement the embargo against Iraq "without deviating a hair," he will not accept any form of border change, even if the Kuwaiti government accepts it, and what is no less important, he added that "foreign forces came to the area because of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait." Until this time, the Tehran regime's official propaganda said that the Persian Gulf crisis merely gave America a pretext to position its forces in the Persian Gulf.

TEHRAN TIMES Views French Gulf Neutrality

NC0411132190 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov 4 (AFP)—The French position in the Gulf crisis was "shrouded in ambiguity" and no longer in line with the policies adopted by its western allies, the TEHRAN TIMES said here Sunday.

"With the gradual passage of time Paris slowly adopted a path away from its western allies. The French now seem to have a joint stance with the Soviet Union," the paper said, referring to the Soviet support of U.N.-imposed sanctions but rejection of war to deal with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Quoting a high-ranking Iranian diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the paper said French officials recently declared that in case of a military conflict between Iraq and western forces they would remain neutral.

"The change in the French position these days has led the Saudis to transfer French troops in the kingdom from the frontline to other points in the country," the paper charged, adding that the Saudis had "realized that the French do not want war with Iraq".

The paper said the French position changed because Paris was "after its own interests".

"At present there are two relatively separate dimensions to the Persian Gulf crisis, first ending the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and second inflicting harm on the Iraqi war machinery—the French cannot agree to both at the same time, because they see the second aspect as detrimental to their national interests."

The TEHRAN TIMES underlined that France, in the past few years, had a major influence on two Middle East nations—Lebanon, its former protectorate, and Iraq, an important client of the arms industry in the 1980-88 Gulf war.

"In Lebanon the French invested heavily on (Christian General) Michel 'Awn during past years", the paper said. "But recently the Syrians with the green light of the U.S. and with the help of some of their allies almost closed down the file of 'Awn and his militia.

"Since that itself was a severe blow for France, Paris now does not want to simply lose its second sphere of influence, i.e. Iraq."

"If military confontation erupted between Iraq and the West (...) the French know very well that in no such case will their western rivals allow the current French influence to prevail in Iraq", the paper argued.

The report came after Iraq handed over three French soldiers to their embassy in Baghdad and played down the first incident on land between Iraqi troops and the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in Saudi Arabia.

The French officer and two non-commissioned officers captured by Iraqi forces within Iraqi territory while on a reconnaissance mission last Monday arrived in Paris early Sunday.

Urges Goodwill, Weapon Sales

NC0111155690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "French Need To Show More Goodwill in Relations With Iran"]

[Text] Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani recently had an exclusive interview with the leading French newspaper LE MONDE in which he explained Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis and Irano-French relations.

Tehran-Paris relations have been particularly disturbed and tense in the period since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. The main cause of these tensions was France's all-out support for Iraq throughout its eight-year war against the Islamic Republic. Steps have been taken to improve Irano-French relations, particularly after the August 1988 Iran-Iraq ceasefire, but the main obstacle remains France's persistence in clinging to its past wrong deeds during the war.

While international public opinion and Western countries now have confessed Iraq's aggressive nature and are ashamed by their past mistaken stance supporting Iraq, the French leadership refuses to admit its mistakes, due to certain reasons.

One of perhaps the most important of these reasons could be France's huge investment in the Iraqi Ba'th Party. At present the Iraqis owe billions of dollars to the French and it may be due to this high investment why Paris has adopted a relatively moderate stance on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Conditions have of course now changed considerably in the region. Iran is no longer so sensitive towards Franco-Iraqi friendship since the ceasefire, but this does not mean that the Islamic Republic will be indifferent towards French arms shipments which intends to alter the military balance by sending weapons to the sensitive Persian Gulf region.

But with respect to new developments on the international scene and particularly a more cohesive Europe in 1992, it would seem that France will need to have better relations with Iran as the key country in the Persian Gulf.

In the past, France has shown a lot of hostility and enmity against Iran. To overcome this, it would seem that the French have to show some real goodwill towards Iran in order for relations to expand between the two countries.

Some political analysts in Tehran believe that Paris can show its goodwill to Iran at this stage by showing a more flexible policy. One way could be to provide technological and military aid to the Islamic Republic. The French can easily sell advanced weapons to Iran, while it should not be forgotten that they are selling their arms to most Persian Gulf countries except Iran.

Paper Urges Germany To Honor Reactor Contract

NC0211164490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Completion of Bushehr Nuclear Plant"]

[Text] Iran is a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty and will never violate international agreements on the peaceful application of nuclear energy. For the same reason Tehran did not forget its commitments towards the 1925 Geneva Accord banning chemical arms. The whole world knows that although the Islamic Republic of Iran suffered heavily due to toxic weapons used by Iraqi forces against Iranian civilians and troops, yet Iranian forces never deployed poison gases in the course of the eight year Iran-Iraq war. Therefore, the German government should understand that Tehran has no desire of making any kind of "weapons of mass destruction" since during the crucial stages of war with Iraq, Iran never used chemical weapons.

The failure of the German government to fulfil its commitments toward Iran with respect to the Bushehr nuclear reactor, will have negative impacts on the two countries long-run trade ties. During the past 60 to 70 years, Germany has been one of Iran's major trade partners. The two countries have also enjoyed bilateral cultural ties too. Thus it is not a correct policy for Bonn to endanger its historical relations with such a politically and economically strategic country as Iran over the provisions of a simple contract.

The head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO), Reza Amrollahi, recently criticized the German government's attitude toward the now half-built Bushehr nuclear power plant in Southern Iran.

Based on the provision of the contract signed between Tehran and Bonn, the plant had to be completed and put into operation with a total generating capacity of 1,200 megawatts of electricity in 1981. So far Iran has paid the German contractor, DM6b ($4b) [$4 billion] on the contract.

The shah's regime wanted to generate some 35,900 megawatts of electricity from nuclear reactors throughout the country by the year 2000. In view of the fact that Iran is located on what is geologically called "seismic belt", construction of a number of nuclear power plants across Iran could have been dangerous. But on the other hand, since some day, in not too distant future, most fossil fuel reserves such as oil, natural gas and coal will deplete and a more safe atomic energy would replace them it is of importance that Iran does something in this regard.

Although at the present time the price of nuclear generated electricity in Iran is twice as expensive as that produced by fossil fuels in Iran, still IAEO must strive to complete the Bushehr nuclear reactor, mainly for the sake of scientific and research activities. Iranian nuclear scientists must further develop their skill about atomic energy. In this respect the government of the Federal Republic of Germany must respect and fulfil its commitments on the completion of the plant.

Turkey's False Allegations in Print Examined

NC0411191690 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
13 Oct 90 p 8

[Political commentary: "A Pen in the Hands of the Lackey Turks and Their New Claims!"]

[Excerpts] Following the mounting apprehension of the Turkish people on the wave of killings and violence that seems to have engulfed the country the past few months, and in view of the inability of their police to arrest the criminals, most of the well-known Turkish publications, such as HURRIYET, have attempted to exonerate the incompetent police by making despicable allegations that the Islamic Republic of Iran was involved in the latest killings.

Some of these lackeys who wield pens have even taken these vile claims to flights of fancy by saying that since some Turks who have been sentenced to execution are residing in Iran; therefore Iran is behind the killings in Turkey.

HURRIYET made these claims in last Tuesday's issue [9 October] under the headline: "Iran Is Involved in the Murders in Turkey" and wrote: "A person named 'Isa Armaghan who was sentenced to execution in Turkey is currently employed as one of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commanders in the Iranian city of Orumiyeh, and is the leader of the Islamic Movement Organization, which has assumed responsibility for the killings." [passage omitted]

Such false and ridiculous claims could only be published in the useless scrap of paper which is called a newspaper in Turkey. Such claims put the Turkish Government under a question mark.

If these claims appearing in these organs of Zionism and Freemasonry were true, the proponents of the atrophied laicist system, including the profligate and lascivious ones who concur with the writers of the above allegations, should admit the bitter fact that the Turkish Government is colluding with terrorists in the publication of such allegations. [passage omitted]

The government spokesmen's failure to comment on the allegations is probably because they consider the contents of the debased newspapers such as HURRIYET and MILLIYET utterly worthless. However, they should be aware that their silence, regardless of the reason, can only make such tabloids more audacious.

The reasons given by the above writers are so ridiculous that if one is to consider them a criterion, then it should be said that all the killings by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the coup attempts by the monarchists in Iran involved the Turkish Government. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately, the publishers of publications such as HURRIYET cannot accept the fact of the rising wave of Islam in their country and the opposition to the laicist system has come to stay and any attempt to attribute opposition of the laicist sytem to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the short term may provide an ointment for the wounds of the proponents of fascism in Turkey and an opportunity to colonialize the people of the country.

However, sooner or later, these people will have to pay a heavy penalty for concealing facts, and for trying to tarnish the luminous visage of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the Muslim people of Turkey.

Velayati Meets With Afghan Party Delegation

LD0211202290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Mortazavi, spokesman of the Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan, together with the heads of the different committees of that party, met with Foreign Minister Velayati yesterday.

At this meeting, he gave a report on the global and political activities of the party and said: From the start of the formation of the Islamic Unity Party, noticeable progress has been made, especially for finding solutions to the difficulties faced by the people inside the country. This raises the hopes of the leaders of the party.

He added: The central region of Afghanistan is under the control of the Islamic Unity Party militarily and politically and is also under the administration of the party. Nearly all mujahidin bases are now under a single command and are ready to defend the holy ideals of Afghan Muslims. Today, I can announce with confidence that inside Afghanistan, everyone is coordinated with each other for the establishment of Islamic rule. Furthermore, offices of the Unity Party have started their activities abroad.

The spokesman of the Unity Party of Afghanistan thanked his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, for endorsing the party and further thanked officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their efforts to find a solution to the Afghan situation... [corrects himself] I'm sorry... and thanked the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for supporting the Islamic revolution and the people of Afghanistan and called for the continuing cooperation of the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to find a solution to the Afghan problem.

At this meeting, Mr Velayati expressed his pleasure at the unity of the groups and parties combined in the

Unity Party in a single structure and said: The unity of the parties of Muslim mujahiddin has always been the wish of all Muslims and today, with endorsement of God, this has taken place.

He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the Muslim people of Afghanistan and we hope to witness victory and stability in Islamic Afghanistan in the near future.

Afghan Mujahidin Delegation Meets Ebrahimi

LD0511125790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, president of the provisional government of Afghanistan accompanied by Gilani, the provisional government's minister of justice; Mowlavi Mansur, head of the Islamic Revolution Movement; Mortazavi, head of the Representative Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party; and a number of commanders and mujahidin based in Peshawar, Pakistan, met and conferred last night with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Ebrahimi, the eminent leader's representative for Afghan affairs.

Mr. Mojaddedi delivered a report on the latest military and political developments in Afghanistan and the situation facing the mujahidin, expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its all-round support for the Mujahidin during the course of several years of jihad, and called for assistance in helping establish deep solidarity and unity between the mujahidin.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Ebrahimi said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities, in line with the honorable leader of the revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, have supported the rightful struggles and battles of the Muslim people of Afghanistan in the hope that—God willing—you might attain an Islamic government. He attributed the lack of success of the provisional government to differences between the mujahidin and to the nonparticipation of some groups. He noted: If we return to God's fold with unity and solidarity, God's blessings will befall us.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mortazavi, the head of the spokesman for the Representative Council of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party, expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the struggles of the Afghan mujahidin, he said: Iran is a home to all Muslims and the eminent leader a refuge for all Muslims. He expressed the hope that the continuation of meetings would achieve positive and beneficial achievements in all spheres ensuring the political and military isolation of all enemies.

It should be noted that Gilani, Mowlavi Mansur, and Sirat Taleqani each expressed their views at the meeting, and stressed the importance of establishing unity and achieving a practical solution embracing all the sacred goals of Afghanistan's Islamic movement with the participation of all groups.

Need To Oppose Israeli 'Crimes' Examined

NC0111152790 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Silence Against Israeli Crimes—Treason to Islam and the Ummah"]

[Text] On Monday the world once again witnessed a new atrocity, the massacre of defenseless Palestinians by Israeli troops around al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. The Palestinian news agency WAFA put the number of martyrs at 30 and the number of wounded at over 1,000. The Israeli regime claimed the number of dead was 21 and those injured 160.

This is undoubtedly the worst massacre of its kind in occupied Palestine in the past 30 years. Monday's incident also shows that the tactic of time-wasting adopted by Israeli leaders to suppress the Palestinian Intifadah has not succeeded.

Meanwhile, it seems that Israel's Western supporters, who equally should be condemned for this atrocious massacre, are not very happy at Monday's incident. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the U.S. preferred to have seen a subdued Israel while it could go ahead with its newly-created unity with certain conservative Arab countries of the region for achieving predetermined aims.

But with the massacre of Moslems in the holy city of Jerusalem, a widespread hatred against the Zionists has been aroused among the Moslem Ummah, which only increases the pressure on the U.S. as the major supporter of Israel.

Moreover world public is left asking itself what is the difference between Israel's occupation of Palestine and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. Aggression against other lands, in whatever form, is basically a despicable and condemnable act, yet all we have is hypocricy.

Many Western countries have sent huge armies and armadas for the execution of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 660, 661 and 662, while no Western country has even been willing to apply the slightest political pressure on Israel to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 238?

The U.S. veto of the U.N. Security Council resolution against Israel should be a sign of warning for world Moslems in general and those in the Middle East in particular. Conservative rulers of Islamic countries will truly let this bitter and beastly incident pass by and try not to attach importance to it by issuing mere statements. But the Moslem Ummah cannot remain silent and inactive. Silence now would be a huge treachery against Islam and the aspirations of the Moslem Ummah. What the world is witnessing in its sufferings is not only inconsistent policies, but blatant injustice against the Palestinian people.

Support After Palestinian 'Massacre' Reviewed

NC0211173090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran and Jerusalem"]

[Text] Iran, as acknowledged by friends and foes, finally came out victorious from a lengthy and bloody war imposed on it by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

Now it is a confirmed truth that Iran fought the war not with Iraq but with all those powers and their stooges who are currently struggling to confront Iraq and as yet, none of them, including the United States, has dared to aim its guns at Baghdad.

The Iranians are fully aware that this they were able to accomplish only with the blessings of Almighty God. They were determined to defend their Islamic homeland and sacrificed a lot for the sacred cause. Now it is time to raise a question. Is the war against the enemies of Islam over?

Remembering what our warriors used to shout at the war fronts and on their march towards the enemy lines the answer to the above question is: no, the war against the enemies of Islam is not over. Liberation of occupied Palestine was the second objective of our mujahids. Now that the Iraq-Iran War is triumphantly ended, what is Iran going to do for the liberation of Islam's first Qiblah—Qods (Jerusalem)?

Unfortunately we have as yet heard no official statement on the subject. Not even after black Monday, the Oct. 8 massacre of Palestinians at the al-Aqsa Mosque, was any announcement made on the urgency of mobilizing Muslim mujahids to go to the help of their Palestinian Muslim brethren.

Omar Abu Sirhan, the 19-year-old Palestinian who killed three Zionists two of them armed—with a knife on Sunday, and hundreds of others like him must be looking forward to the day when basij [mobilization forces] from Iran, in the tens of thousands, will rush to Jerusalem to help liberate the Muslim holy land and free the people of Palestine, suffering for more than forty years at the hands of the Zionist brutes.

On a diplomatic level the Muslim countries including Iran are not taking necessary initiatives against Israel. Israel's refusal to abide by the U.N. Security council resolution to send an investigating mission to Jerusalem was an act of impudence, particularly so in view of the importance the world is now giving to all U.N. resolutions against Iraq.

If Iraq is an aggressor, so is Israel. If the U.N. resolutions against Iraq have to be respected by all members of the U.N., why should the world remain apathetic towards Israel's defiance of U.N. resolutions?

Nevertheless, the oppressed Muslims in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied Muslim territories are justified if they hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will campaign to rally the support of all Muslim countries, those not under U.N. hegemony, at the diplomatic level and if need be on the military level.

Border Crossings With USSR Begin at Astara

LD0611132290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] According to the understandings reached between officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR, the conditions for the border crossings of the border residents of the countries for a fixed period of time were announced. Our reporter:

[Reporter] In the implementation of the protocol signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government and the USSR to provide the necessary facilities for the crossings of the two countries' border residents, the latter officially began their crossings this morning with the arrival of 150 households—nationals of Soviet Azerbaijan—at the border township of Astara. Following the agreement of 26 Jan 1989 signed between the border authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union, from now on, on Mondays and Tuesdays every week, 150 households from Soviet Azerbaijan; and, on Wednesdays and Thursdays every week, 150 Iranian households who live in Astara border township, can cross the border to see their relatives and families.

On the basis of the protocol signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran's Government and the USSR, facilities for border crossings by the residents have been provided at eleven points on the border areas of the two countries. One of these points is the Astara land border.

Also, according to this protocol, each of the border residents can stay in the border regions for a period of 15 days and travel up to a maximum of 45 km from the border point to the interior of both countries.

It is worth mentioning that possessing an Economic Basij [mobilization] notebook [allowing holders discounts on certain goods] from the border township of Astara, which is obtained after two years' permanent residence in that township, is one of the conditions to be met by the inhabitants of Astara when they cross the border on their way to Soviet Azerbaijan.

*Commentary Views Army, Assembly of Experts

91AS0083Y London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 12

[Text] As we have noted in this column (5 Mehr, 27 September), the initial opposition to 'Ali Khamene'i was begun by people whose competence to be elected to the Assembly of Experts was not confirmed.

Those who had been pushed aside at first intended to seek help from their supporters and agents in the revolutionary guard and the mobilization to fight this severe blow they received, by staging demonstrations against the method of choosing the Council of Guardians, but the revolutionary guard commanders wrote a letter to 'Ali Khamene'i stating that the revolutionary guard participates in the elections to the Assembly of Experts "in an extensive way." In this way, just a warning to the mobilization was enough to get them immediately to put aside the idea of holding demonstrations.

Their other maneuver was to take a proposal to the Majles at the time the candidates for the Assembly of Experts were announced by the Council of Guardians, under which the liberals and the hojjatiyehs were preventing from holding what they called "key" positions, but this proposal also, in the sense that was important, could not get a Majles majority, especially since with the hospitalization of Mehdi Karrubi, things in the Majles have not worked out to the liking of the "hardliners." Another attempt they made to paralyze the government was to deprive the Majles of a quorum, but since the new Khamene'i-Rafsanjani-Yazdi coalition has no intention of backing down in face of the "hardliners," they might use such an opportunity, at least temporarily, to turn over the Majles's prerogatives to the Expediency Discernment Council, whose intervention in Majles affairs is not without precedent.

In Iran, especially Tehran and Qom, everyone believes that the power struggle has reached the point of no return. What was interesting in all this was the presentation of joint candidates by the Qom Seminary Teachers and the Combatant Clergy Association (the original group) [Jame'h-e Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez], who sent most of the representatives to the Assembly of Experts. It can be said that the assembly is controlled by traditional and conservative preachers, who have been attacked for years by the "hardliners."

An important point that has not escaped alert observers is that the army was one of the first organizations to declare its readiness to defend the decisions of the "leader of the Islamic Republic." The question thus arises, wasn't this army announcement itself a factor that kept some revolutionary guards and members of the mobilization from demonstrating against the theologians on the Council of Guardians?

Another noteworthy question was how will Ahmad Khomeyni emerge from the joint roster of the Qom Seminary Teachers and the Combatant Clergy Association (the original group), as the main supporter of the hardline clergy in the Combatant Clergy Association (the breakaway group) [Majma'-e Rowhaniyun-e Mobarez], seen as a major rival of the traditional clergy, who are now keeping a meaningful silence?

First Major Strike?

Reports from Tehran state that the closure of many gasoline stations in this city has a reason other than that announced by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY or the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Petroleum. There have always been metro excavations, late deliveries, and a shortage of tankers, without causing the closure of tens of gasoline stations. There is talk of the "first important strike" in the fuel distribution network.

Maltreatment of Demonstrators Criticized

NC0411214990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 14 Oct 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "Reality"]

[Text] From numerous letters addressed to this newspaper and repeated telephone calls to us, we learned that on last Thursday, there was a clash between law enforcement forces and a group of our hezbollahi brothers who were staging a demonstration in northern Tehran against vice and corruption, which made them very indignant.

In the letters and telephone calls received at the newspaper office, the hezbollahi brothers wanted to know why they were maltreated for staging demonstrations against vice!

It appears that the actual officials and decision makers of the system should make a categorical decision on the issue of vice as soon as possible so that all the people know where they stand. What happened on 11 October is in fact an example of the consequences of not specifying the policy on the subject.

If the law says that not fully conforming to Islamic standards of apparel and selling, purchasing, and using indecent clothing are banned and are considered crimes, and the law enforcement forces are authorized to tackle the situation, but all these instances exist in society and are not legally dealt with, matters remain in a state of limbo. The injunctions on the issue are clear from the legal point of view, but the mode of dealing with them has not been outlined. It is for this reason that the lovers of Islam and revolution, who bear the brunt of the Islamic Republic's system on their shoulders, feel responsible and enter the arena.

If we expect that such incidents should not take place, then the issue of how to tackle vice and the implementation of such a polciy should also be clarified. It cannot be said that those who have struggled to uproot vices and a decadent culture, have sacrificed their blood and offered martyrs, and do not hesitate to offer the greatest sacrifices should be silent spectators to the authorities' inertia in tackling the issue legally and should not display any sort of reaction.

On the one hand, the law enforcement forces are justified in saying that they are duty-bound to disperse any unauthorized demonstrations. On the other hand, the people are correct in feeling that since there is no legal follow-up on the issue, they should enter the arena themselves.

It is a fact that in an Islamic society it is the law enforcement forces' duty to prohibit vice and enjoin virtue in the society, and if they do not perform their duty, then the people feel it is their lawful duty under the shari'ah to take matters into their own hands.

Thus, the solution is that the responsible officials should take serious measures to tackle the campaign against vice in its various aspects and thus remove all room for apprehension. The hezbollahis and the basijis cannot be expected to turn a blind eye to the prevalence of these vices and not attempt to prohibit it. On the contrary, attempts should be made to gladden their hearts by a legal campaign against society's ills and to inspire confidence in them in this regard. This is a reality which should be comprehended and put into practice as soon as possible.

Soviet Minister Discusses Dam Construction

LD0111192990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Construction of joint dams on the Atrak and Harirud rivers were discussed in a meeting between Polad-Zade, Soviet first deputy minister of water resources construction, and Zangeneh, [Iranian] energy minister.

It was decided that the Soviet side should carry out the necessary follow-ups to speed up the design and work on implementing projects pertaining to the construction of those dams.

Protocol on Steel Mill Signed With USSR

LD0111124390 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 1 Nov 90

[Text] Moscow, Nov. 1 (IRNA)—Iran and the Soviet Union signed a protocol here Wednesday with Moscow agreeing to boost production capacity of the Esfahan steel mill to 1.9 million tons a year, within six months. The protocol was signed by the visiting Iranian Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujihi and the Soviet Minister of Metallurgy Serafin Kolpakov.

The Soviet party also agreed to sell Iran 500,000 tons of iron ore concentrates and 500,000 tons of iron ore annually. The two countries are also to cooperate in implementation of alumina projects in Iran [words indistinct] at the Hormuz strait.

Mahluchji who arrived here last Sunday also inspected Leningrad Vami Research Institute. In talks with Vami officials he discussed its cooperation with the Iranian institutions. The two sides voiced readiness to exploit mines in northern Iran and execute alumina and aluminium production projects at Qeshm island.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Cabinet Source Says King Accepts Constitution

BK0511123690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 5 Nov 90

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 5 (AFP)—King Birendra Monday accepted a draft constitution for Nepal guaranteeing a constitutional monarchy and a multi-party system, and promised to promulgate the final document on Friday, a high-placed source said. The king's proclamation of a new democratic constitution at the end of the week will be televised and broadcast over state-run radio, the cabinet source said.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, a pro-democracy activist who became interim prime minister in the wake of a popular movement early this year, said only "cosmetic changes" were made to the draft document. "The four basic principles like constitutional monarchy, multi-party system of government, state sovereignty vested in the general public and full-fledged human rights have been maintained intact," Mr. Bhattarai said. "As per the wishes of the king, the national anthem and the national flag have been maintained intact without any changes from the earlier three constitutions," he said.

The interim coalition government, which came to power after the two-month pro-democracy movement, had reviewed and amended four times the draft document prepared by the Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC). During the constitutional review process, many Nepalese expressed doubt that the king would agree to full democracy and keep his promise of proclaiming the constitution on Friday because of their experience with a partyless political system that endured for 30 years, analysts said.

Many protests have been held in the past two weeks to denounce alleged attempts at avoiding a democratic constitution. A protest is scheduled for Tuesday and a general strike planned for Wednesday, apparently in an effort to ensure the constitution is proclaimed on Friday. According to the new constitution, the king will serve as head of state but not rule the government on his own.

He is required to abide by the suggestions and advice of the Council of Ministers and will attend the bicameral parliament mainly for such ceremonies as opening the house every year. The monarch will convene parliament, prolong it and declare an emergency session only on the advise of the Council of Ministers.

"During the past two weeks King Birendra conferred with more than 20 top ranking leaders representing both communist and democratic parties, journalists, geographers, demographers, educationists, lawyers, and economists," the cabinet source said. During these meetings the king had always promised to accept the new draft constitution forwarded to him by the Council of Ministers, but maintained that he had every right to express his own viewpoint, the source said.

Participating in the meetings were anti-monarchical Marxist and Leninist leaders, including Chandra Prakash Mainali who had been in hiding for about 20 years since he escaped from jail and was eventually pardoned by the king last month. Also present was Jhala Nath Khanal, a prominent figure in the Council of Ministers who represents the Marxist and Leninist group under the United Left Front (ULF).

In his first public appearance last week, Mr. Mainali warned that the king would pay a heavy price if there were any deceptive move against the promulgation of a democratic constitution. Some critics said the king during his meetings had tried to split the pro-democratic Nepali Congress and the ULF—an alliance of the seven factions of the Nepali Communist Party—in a bid to retain his full authority.

Other changes to the draft constitution included provisions limiting the royal family's role in politics and business. "If royal family members want to do private business, they have to abide by the country's fiscal and monetary policies and pay necessary taxes to the government," a cabinet source said.

Meanwhile, the pro-Marxist Peasant and Labour Union is scheduled to hold a protest march on Tuesday and a general strike has been called for Wednesday by the ULF Kathmandu Committee, apparently to pressure the king to promulgate the draft constitution on Friday, as originally scheduled.

Pro-Democracy Protests Continue, Condemn King

Public Sector Joins In

BK3110170590 Hong Kong AFP in English
1650 GMT 31 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 31 (AFP)—Tens of thousands of employees of state-run corporations staged a silent protest march in the Nepalese capital on Wednesday, carrying placards and banners demanding the implementation of a democratic political system. They denounced a draft constitution prepared by royal palace secretaries as anti-democratic and held banners reading, "Down with palace conspiracy" and "We condemn palace intervention in our constitution."

The protestors demanded that the interim government implement a democratic constitution guaranteeing fundamental rights, that sovereignty of the king be transferred to the people, a constitutional monarchy and a multiparty parliamentary system. In related news, six national pro-leftist students' unions issued a joint statement strongly denouncing the palace constitution. The statement alleged that reactionary elements wanted to introduce a fascist constitution preserving the partyless panchayat system.

Groups Stage March

BK0211163590 Hong Kong AFP in English
1625 GMT 2 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 2 (AFP)—More than 10,000 people held a peaceful demonstration here Friday in which they carried banners denouncing what they said was a conservative conspiracy against a democratic constitution for Nepal. "Let the Constitution be promulgated on the scheduled date," read one slogan, while another said, "down with the palace's conspiracy."

The demonstration was organized by a Nepal Journalist Association and a university teacher's union. Riot police guarded public buildings and followed the procession, but no violent incident occurred, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, the pro-leftist All Nepal People's Youth League held a demonstration Thursday night at Lalitpur, attended by more than 4,000 people carrying flaming torches. The demonstrators shouted slogans denouncing the monarchy and what they described as palace conspirators. Amid applause, some later burned a copy of a draft constitution prepared by the palace, witnesses said.

Reports reaching Kathmandu Friday said a similar protest was held at Siraha District, 190 kilometres (118 miles) southeast of Kathmandu, under the sponsorship of the Nepal Communist Party. Meanwhile, the United Left Front Kathmandu Committee called a general strike for Wednesday as well as a demonstration in the capital, apparently to pressure the king to promulgate a democratic constitution by the scheduled date of November 9, sources said.

Moslem-Hindu Clashes Leave Two Dead, Five Injured

BK0411160890 Hong Kong AFP in English
1542 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 4 (AFP)—At least two people have died and five others have suffered serious injuries in fighting between Hindus and Moslems in a Nepalese village southeast of here, a Home Ministry source said sunday. The fighting occurred at Harion village in the Sarlahi district after "a group of Moslem minorities had littered the place where the Hindus had cleaned for some Hindu religious rites," a ministry source said here.

"The police resorted to one round of blank fire to disperse the mob and rescue five unidentified people detained inside a wooden house who were gravely injured," the source said.

"Though the situation in Sarlahi district is tense, it is however under control and a sufficient number of security guards have been deployed to avert further clashes," the ministry source said.

An unofficial source said those who were killed and injured were Moslems, although this could not be officially confirmed. Moslems are a minority in predominantly Hindu Nepal. The Nepali Congress, a member of the nation's coalition government, formed a committee to investigate the violence and submit a report as early as possible.

Meanwhile, the ministry source confirmed that two Ram Sita temples at Bara and Nautanwa districts, southeast and southwest of Kathmandu, were damaged last week by two groups of Moslems, believed to have entered Nepal from Bihar. Two people have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Pakistan

Jatoi Heads Special Cabinet Meeting 5 Nov

BK0511131790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] A special meeting of the cabinet was held in Islamabad today under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. The prime minister thanked his cabinet colleagues for the cooperation extended by them in completion of the mission assigned to the caretaker goverment for holding free, fair, and peaceful elections in the country.

The cabinet members expressed their gratitude to the prime minister for inspiring leadership that helped the government to complete the most difficult task of running the affairs of the country during the interim period. They also expressed their gratitude to the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, for the confidence reposed in them and for giving support and guidance for completion of the task assigned to the caretaker government.

Jatoi Addresses Nation on Sharif Election

BK0611074090 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 5 (AFP)—The Prime Minister, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said on Monday that he had fulfilled the task of holding fair, free and impartial, elections assigned to him and it was up to the nation to keep aloft the banner of democracy to build Pakistan as a truly Islamic welfare state.

Addressing the nation over the television and radio networks on Monday evening he called upon the future Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif to face the challenges posed to his government with the help of Allah Almighty and courage with which he had been blessed by Almighty Allah to lead the nation to a secure and prosperous future.

He pointed out that he had taken over as a caretaker Prime Minister in the turbulent conditions in the country and the law and order situation was out of control and the life, property and honour of the people was endangered. He overcame this situation solely with the help of Allah and with the co-operation of his team and the entire nation, he added.

Mr. Jatoi said that he had already been stating and would reiterate his assertion that it was the part of his faith that where there was no justice, that land was not blessed by Allah. He would always be emphasising on the point that justice was the basis of the country and it could alone guarantee the integrity and prosperity of Pakistan.

In an emotionally charged voice, he said, to whichever region they belong to, his bond of love and friendship would remain with them to the last breath of his life.

He made an impassioned appeal to the people that now when the elections were over, they should forget all bitterness created during the electioneering and commit themselves to the task of nation building.

He said that he had done his job to the best of his capability and with the help from Allah and would continue to serve the nation in the same spirit. He urged the nation to see that the process of democracy continues unabated and that national unity and cohesion had a paramount importance in this regard.

Mr. Jatoi pointed out that the new government would be facing a lot of challenges and to overcome these, it would require the wholehearted co-operation from all segments of society. The problems of unemployment, poverty, rising prices, injustice and deterioration of law and order had to be solved. Industrialisation had to be undertaken, investment on a large scale had to be encouraged, the agricultural output had to be boosted. The defence of the country would be given due importance. There were outstanding problems of labourers, peasants, women and youth.

He said that justice would have to be done to provide a sound basis to the relations of the federation and the provinces. It would have to be ensured to give proper rights to the people of all the provinces and regions to bring about national harmony.

He recalled that he would not repeat that when he took over on August 6, 1990, what were the conditions in the country. However he would explain that the unity and solidarity, national sovereignty, integrity of the nation and democracy were seriously endangered. The loot and monetary corruption were the order of the day and the national exchequer was squandered mercilessly. Particularly the innocent people of Sindh were groaning under the adverse situation of kidnapping, dacoities [robberies] and disturbances and the life, property and honour of the people was at stake.

Mr. Jatoi said that this state of affairs was affecting the normal life in the entire country and the people were becoming the target of unrest and uncertainly. In this situation, the people were becoming totally disappointed of the politicians and their confidence on democracy was badly shaken.

He said in this atmosphere he had no option but to accept the challenge and to play his role to get the country out of this turmoil. He said that he had made a commitment to the nation after taking over as caretaker Prime Minister that he would ensure the supremacy of the Constitution and the practice of democratic traditions. He said that he had promised that the rights of the provinces would be ensured and justice to all would be done. He had promised that he would take power as a trust and would do utmost to create peaceful conditions.

He said as a matter of fact it was not possible to achieve all these objectives in this brief period. But he was happy that he along with his team remained successful in giving a sense of direction to the nation leading it to its destination with the grace of Allah Almighty.

The Prime Minister said that he has restored the confidence of the national institutions and raised the morale of the armed forces so that they could fully concentrate on the defence of the country. The state of mistrust between the federation and the provinces was removed and major measures were taken for the rights of the provinces.

Mr. Jatoi said that his government took into consideration the respect and dignity of the government servants. All measures were taken to save Sindh from the activities of saboteurs, looters and dacoits. The political process was made pure by goodness and nobility.

He said that the nation was aware of the financial crisis faced by the caretaker government.

Mr. Jatoi said he knew that all the measures taken by his government would not bear fruit immediately. However, he was clear on the point that "we are laying the cornerstone on the basis of which the coming leadership could erect an edifice". He said that this aspect was a source of strength for him that his government planted a sapling and the coming generations would bear its fuit. He announced that they had tried their level best to add more beauty to the homeland of 10 crore people and he was sure that when fresh flowers would grow this homeland of ours would become more attractive and beautiful.

Mr. Jatoi said that over the last few weeks his government had struggled hard to create an atmosphere to discriminate between the right and wrong. The atmosphere aimed at saving the people from any false propaganda in the elections had enabled the nation to arrive at a right decision. He declared that the election results confirmed that he had succeeded in fulfilling the task.

Mr. Jatoi thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who trusted him and entrusted him with important responsibilities in a difficult time. Not only this, he said, the President also extended him full cooperation and gave him guidance.

He said that the elections were an important phase in our national life and the entire nation deserved congratulations on this auspicious occasion. He said that the success or defeat in the elections was immaterial. The real job was that all political parties should take part in the elections and make the democratic process successful and play an active role in shaping the destiny of the nation. He thanked all the political parties who had participated in the elections and made the process successful.

He said that the success acheived today by the nation could not have been possible without the sacrifices of the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] and the political parties included in the former opposition members of the former National Assembly and the Senate. He would say with vigour that the struggle of the leaders of the former (COP) [Combined Opposition Parties] had withstood the test of time during the last 20 months and kept aloft the banner of democracy. "It would remain the memorable chapter of our parliamentary history." He said he would laud the struggle of these companions with the depth of his heart.

He thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan that he cooperated with him fully in fulfilling this uphill task and played a pivotal role in restoring the rights to the nation. He also thanked the Chief Election Commissioner and his worthy colleagues who worked day and night and held fair free and impartial elections in this brief period. He said that he would thank the Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Mirza, Aslam Beg, the officers and Jawans of the armed forces who provided peacefully conditions and gave sense of security and peace without which the elections could not have been held.

Mr. Jatoi said that he was addressing the nation at a very significant juncture of country's history. The elections have been completed by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the blessings of Holy Prophet (PBUH) [Peace Be Upon Him] and the formation of democratically elected governments at the federal and provincal levels was in the process, he added.

These elections, he pointed out, were of immense import in the national life. The results of the elections reflected that the people had not only declared no-confidence in the previous government but the polls were virtually a referendum in which the people effectively endorsed and supported the August 6 decision of the President.

The Prime Minister said that the High Courts of Punjab and Sindh had already termed the presidential action as legitimate and constitutional.

Mr Jatoi said that the elections were also a vote of confidence in the caretaker government. Had the caretaker government committed even a petty mistake, the support of the people would have diverted to the other side.

It was a cherished desire of the opponents that the caretaker government may commit many mistakes so that it could be exploited for launching political propaganda against Islami Jamboori Ittehad. [IJI]

However, with the blessings of Almighty Allah, all his colleagues strictly observed legal and constitutional norms and so much so, some of his friends lost elections, but they kept their hands clean and did not take undue advantage of their position, Mr. Jatoi pointed out.

This provides unchallengeable and solid proof of just and impartial elections, he added.

The Prime Minister said that the decision given by the people in the elections was a tangible evidence of their acute political awareness. He thanked the entire people of the Punjab for extending unprecedented support to the IJI.

He also congratulated the people of NWFP and Balochistan who strengthened the democratic fabric by demonstrating their national awareness.

The Prime Minister said that he would particularly pay tributes to the people of Sindh province as the opponents tried to create an emotional atmosphere like the past as they wanted a different political decision of the people of Sindh from the rest of the country.

But, Mr. Jatoi said, he was happy that the people of Sindh province demonstrated patriotism and national awareness and voted for the democracy-loving candidates with majority.

"Our colleague who could not win the elections in Sindh, also gave a hard contest and secured a large number of votes". Likewise, the people of Sindh have given a message to the people of the entire country that Sindh was not a fortress of anyone. The people of Sindh have cast their vote on the basis of their competence and instead of being swayed away by emotional slogans.

The election results, he said proved that the political atmosphere of Sindh province had sufficiently changed and this change was very pleasant and a matter of satisfaction for the whole country.

He expressed the confidence that the process of solidarity and integrity would continue in Sindh by the grace of Allah as he knew that the people of Sindh had a great love for their homeland.

Reminding the nation, the Prime Minister said, President of Pakistan had held out an assurance in his national address on August 6 last that National Assembly elections would definitely be held on Oct. 24.

After assuming the office of caretaker Prime Minister, during the Press conference on August 7 and later in his address to the nation on August 14, he had made it clear that the elected representatives would be transferred power after holding fair and impartial elections on Oct. 24 and 27, Mr. Jatoi added.

But few people who were afraid of seeking mandate from the people, kept on hatching conspiracies for the postponement of elections either throughs disturbing law and order situation or by taking support of Constitutional complications. These people—as a matter of fact wanted to escape from the elections, he said. That is why, they kept on spreading rumours time and again that the caretaker government would neither hold elections nor it would transfer power to the elected people. "But thanks to Almighty Allah that we remained firm in our commitment", he said adding that "by the grace of Almighty Allah and blessings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) we fulfilled our pledge to the people of Pakistan".

Mr. Jatoi said the people had been deceived in the past and he, therefore had decided, come what may, they would prove firm in their words and true in their deeds.

Believe me, the Prime Minister said he had no other desire except his name be remembered as a faithful Pakistani in history, the Prime Minister said adding that it was his faith that the power was, in fact the trust from Almighty Allah and by the grace of God, he was handing over this trust properly to the elected representatives of the people. "In fact I am a humble servant of Almighty Allah, and I did not want to go before Almighty Allah as having any spot on my character of life, dishonesty and disloyalty", he added.

Sharif Speaks on Election as Prime Minister

BK0611085590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was today elected leader of the house by the National Assembly. In a special session summoned for ascertaining as to who commands the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif secured 153 votes. His rival candidate, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan of ANP [Awamai National Party]-Haqiqi received 39 votes.

Speaking after his election, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif thanked Allah Almighty and the members on his election and recalled that the responsibilities he has been called upon to assume were performed before him by eminent personalities in Pakistan's politics. He assured the people that he will make every effort to fulfill the trust they have reposed in him and carry out his responsibilities strictly in accordance with the Constitution and the aspirations of the people. In this task he would seek the cooperation of the members of the house. He pledged joint struggle for Pakistan's prosperity, integrity, and stability.

He said whether it be the struggle of the Afghan people or by the people of occupied Kashmir, whether it be the improvement of the economy or law and order, these will be tackled in a concerted and united manner. He assured that every member of the house, whether he belongs to the treasury benches or the opposition, will be given equal respect and consideration.

The rival candidate, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, congratulated Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif on his election and assured him of his supoport if his policies are aimed at strengthening the federation, giving the provinces their due rights, improving the lot of downtrodden people, and putting an end to exploitation.

Congratulating Mian Nawaz Sharif, the caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, reminded him of the onerous responsibility that devolved on him. He said as head of the incoming government, his foremost responsibility should be to protect the honor, life, and property of every citizen. Supremacy of the Constitution and rights of the provinces had to be ensured to set a new tradition.

The leader of the opposition, Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, welcomed the new administration and extended her support to the extent that its policies are designed to further national interests. She said the opposition will stand by the government when it stands by the people.

The house is now adjourned sine die.

Sworn In 6 Nov

BK0611112990 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif was sworn in as the prime minister of Pakistan at an impressive ceremony at Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential residence] in Islamabad a short while ago. The oath was administered by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan. Mr. Nawaz Sharif is the 13th prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The ceremony was attended by the former prime ministers Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo, Chairman of the Senate Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Gohar Ayub Khan, prominent political leaders including Kazi Hussain Ahmad, Mr. Altaf Hussain, Maualana Abdul Sattar Niazi, Maulana Samiul Haq, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, members of the Senate and the National Assembly, services chiefs, diplomats and senior officials. The Azad Kashmir president, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan; the Azad Kashmir prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathod; chief justice and judges of the Supreme Court, chief election commissioner and federal ombudsman also attended the ceremony.

Endorsed by Lower House

BK0611062790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0603 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Nov 6 (AFP)—The lower house of the Pakistani parliament Tuesday endorsed the president of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), Nawaz Sharif, as prime minister for a five-year term.

Mr. Sharif, 41, a leading industrialist, will be sworn in later Tuesday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

He received 153 votes against the opposition nominee, Mohammad Afzal Khan, who was supported by 39 deputies belonging to the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto.

Before the voting, Ms. Bhutto and her party members staged a token walkout after the speaker, Gohar Ayub Khan, rejected their demand for a secret ballot. They returned to the house after a few minutes.

Mr. Sharif, Pakistan's 11th prime minister and the first from the majority Punjab province in 32 years, will take over from caretaker Premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. [passage omitted]

Jam Sadiq Ali Elected Chief Minister of Sindh

BK0511124190 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] The Sindh Assembly today unanimously elected Jam Sadiq Ali as leader of the house. The election was held by show of hands in which Jam Sadiq Ali got 58 votes. The house adopted a resolution tabled by several members which said Jam Sadiq Ali commands confidence of the majority of the members of the provincial assembly to be the chief minister of Sindh.

Earlier, the leader of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] parliamentary group, Syed Qaim Ali Shah, raised the objection that the notice about the special session was very short. He said that the chief minister yesterday promised to (?bring) the PDA member, Mr. Umar, in the house. He further alleged that Jam Sadiq Ali has kept some PDA members under illegal confinement in the chief minister house. After this objection, he announced to boycott remaining proceedings of the session. The members belonging to PDA, led by Syed Qaim Ali Shah, left the house.

Jam Sadiq Ali, replying to allegations said that these were fabricated and malicious.

To Free Political Prisoners

BK0611060190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 90

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Karachi last night after winning the vote of confidence, the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, announced that all the political prisoners will be released within three days. He said they will be released irrespective of their party affiliation. Those facing false charges will be released within one week. He said the cases against others will also be reviewed. The Sindh chief minister gave assurances that no vindictive action will be taken. He sought the cooperation of all the members of the assembly irrespective of their party affiliations to restore law and order in the province. He said his policy will be to extend love and fraternal feelings to all and no enmity against anybody. Jam Sadiq Ali said that the rights of the minorities will be protected and their problems will be solved.

Earlier, at a special session of the provincial assembly, Jam Sadiq Ali won the vote of confidence.

Nuclear Program Not Affected by Aid Cuts

BK0611103890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
6 Nov 90 p 6

[Text] Lahore, Nov 5—Dr. A.Q. Khan, head of the Dr. A.Q. Khan Research Laboratories Kahuta has said that his laboratories were doing the research work of international repute and were contributing 25-30 research papers annually to the journals of international repute. Our job has been widely appreciated at the international forums as well, he said.

Dr. A.Q. Khan was addressing a seminar on "library education in Pakistan, problems and prospects" in Lahore Monday. He said though all the research work was the result of our innovations and struggle, we did not receive any technical know-how from abroad but we can't reject the use of books, magazines and research papers in this connection.

Dr Khan said that books and libraries endorse confidence and help us in learning. He said that research without library, and library without funds was impossible. He urged the scientists, engineers and technicians to get in touch with the rapid developments taking place in the world of science and technology through the usage of books and libraries. He added that for the economic development in the country importance of standard research work could not be ruled out.

While talking to the newsmen Dr Khan dispelled the impression that Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme could be disturbed due to the lack of funds and suspension of the US financial assistance and said "we must continue it at any cost".

Editorial Underscores Need for Foreign Aid

BK0511124990 Lahore THE NATION in English
5 Nov 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Aid to Pakistan"]

[Text] The World Bank is extending a 130 million dollar loan to the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Ltd for expanding its distribution system. It will be repayable in 20 years at a 7.72 per cent interest rate which is linked to the cost of bank borrowings. The US will provide 100 million dollars for housing projects; another 5 million dollars will be made available by the US under the technical assistance programme. The US will also give us a loan of 86.1 million dollars for Balochistan Highway Road Project. China is another country pouring finances into Pakistan—in the form of grants till 1987 after which they extended loans in response to their own domestic economic crisis. International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Asian Development Bank will provide more loans (valued at approximately 135 million dollars). Japan will also provide soft loans to Pakistan as will France.

The above picture clearly reflects the importance of aid inflow to our social sector development. And considering that the new government has not commenced formulating an economic policy yet, these commitments are indicative of the efforts to procure foreign finance by Ms. Bhutto's government. As is apparent the aid was utilised for developmental purposes and it is clear that without it any government of Pakistan would find it extremely difficult to undertake projects that would benefit the poor due to a paucity of funds at its command. It is for such reasons that the government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif cannot reduce reliance on aid however much it may want to. Aid does increase the constraints of a government but as is evident to all debtor countries its positive impact cannot be underestimated.

Restraint Urged on Indian Temple Issue

BK0511134990 Karachi DAWN in English
5 Nov 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Assault on Babri Masjid and After"]

[Text] The communal frenzy that has gripped India since last week has assumed horrifying proportions. The Hindu extremists spearheaded by the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council] have tried to attack the Babri Masjid [mosque] twice in a bid to demolish it. If they have not succeeded in their nefarious attempts, it is because the government of Mr V.P. Singh has made the Ramjanam-bhoomi-Babri mosque issue a test case for its proclaimed commitment to secularism. Hence the firm response from the police and local administration in Ayodhya to the Hindu militant challenge. But what is intriguing is Mr V.P. Singh's failure to act promptly in dealing with the rising obscurantist threat. He allowed Mr. Advani to launch the Rath Yatra from Gujarat several weeks ago. The BJP leader was arrested only when the forces of Hindu fanaticism and intolerance has been unleashed. Religious passions had already been whipped up to such a frenzied pitch that a flood of communal madness is now sweeping the whole of India which the government finds difficult to stem. Over 100 people have been killed in the last five days in Hindu-Muslim clashes and police firing on demonstrators. No words are strong enough to condemn the upsurge of communal fury and hatred that is in evidence in India today. It has not only caused scare and insecurity among the religious minorities living in that country. The present wave of communal violence has also exposed the vulnerability of Indian secularism and shaken its political system as well.

Distressing as the communal holocaust in India is, the reaction in Pakistan too is not without its unfortunate aspects. People here have no doubt been deeply pained and grieved—and very rightly so—at the desecration of the Babri Masjid and the widespread massacre of Indian

Muslims. But one would have expected the protesters to observe dignified restraint and calm in giving expression to their outraged feeling over the tragic incidents across the border. The idea should be to register their protest and make their feelings known on this sensitive issue. Additionally, the people of Pakistan would want to demonstrate their sympathies for their co-religionists in India. This purpose could have been perfectly served by holding peaceful rallies and meetings and presenting protest notes to the concerned authorities.

Obviously, some misguided elements do not believe in this form of protest as adequate for their particular purpose. How else can one explain the deplorable incidents in Hyderabad this weekend when three Hindu temples were set ablaze and a Hindu cobbler shot dead? Acts such as these militate against the spirit of tolerance and magnanimity that Islam enjoins its followers to display towards non-Muslims. If some Hindu revivalists in India have chose the path of sacrilege and violence in Ayodhya, that hardly provides any justification for holding the Hindu minority in Pakistan responsible for the excesses of the religious fanatics on the other side of the border. They have done nothing to deserve the kind of wrathful treatment that has fallen to the lot of some. For this, our political parties and leaders of religious opinion must bear a great deal of responsibility. It is their duty to counsel restraint and tolerance in such circumstances when there is a real danger of the people being carried away by a frenzy of religious emotions. It would be the height of irresponsibility on the part of any of them to exploit the religious sentiments of the people for ulterior purposes. In the present emotionally-charged atmosphere, any Hindu is likely to be made the target of revenge. One only hopes that better sense will prevail and the Muslims in Pakistan will rise to the occasion to demonstrate their tolerance and large-heartedness towards the followers of other faiths in the true spirit of Islam.

Violent Indian Tactics in Kashmir Viewed

BK0611110590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A Turn for the Worse"]

[Text] Another ten persons were killed in incidents of violence, earlier this week, in Indian-held Kashmir as the people of the valley continue their struggle for liberation. While the government of India has taken a hard line, so far, against fanatical Hindus on the Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue, there has been no let up at all in the brutal repression of Kashmiri Muslims demanding nothing more than their right to self-determination. More recently, in fact, the tactics of the Indian security forces have taken a turn for the worse. 'Fine' and 'collective punishment' are now part of the brutal strategy being employed to break the spirit of resistance of the valiant Kashmiris. Destroying, in this case by setting fire to the houses of those suspected of being acting in the struggle is a tactic associated in recent memory with the Zionists' effort to crush the Intifada in Palestine. As for collective punishment, i.e., punishing a whole village, for instance, in retaliation for acts of violence thought to have been committed by one of its members, the concept seems to have been borrowed from the Nazis who used the technique liberally during the second World War.

Such brutal and outrageous methods have succeeded in stirring up some concern even among policy makers in the United States which has taken a lukewarm approach to the issue to date. Nine members of the US Congress have called upon the Bush Administration to investigate Human Rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. Even the US Administration has indicated its discomfort over the prevailing situation. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly has urged India to allow Amnesty International to investigate the 'disturbing' human rights situation in Kashmir.

These expressions of concern are, of course, welcome; but they are a far cry from the kind of concerted international effort required to put sufficient pressure on India to end the reign of terror unleashed against the Kashmiri people. In the changed global environment, the international community has had little difficulty in agreeing on the need to reverse the gains made by Iraq through aggression and a spate of United Nations Resolutions to this effect reflects the wide-ranging consensus on the issue. It is imperative that this spirit of cooperation among nations in defence of upholding values and norms that form the basis of acceptable international conduct must be sustained and victims of state aggression whether in Palestine or Kashmir be provided relief through the international community pushing its errant members to either change their conduct or pay the price for persisting in their practice of violating international law as well as human rights on a grand scale.

Sri Lanka

President Greets Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif

BK0211165090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0802 GMT 2 Nov 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—The following message has been sent by H.E. Ranasinghe Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka, to the new prime minister of Pakistan H.E. Nawaz Sharif.

"Excellency, the people and the Government of Sri Lanka join me in extending to you our warm felicitations on your victory at the recent elections and our best wishes on your appointment as prime minister. Pakistan and Sri Lanka have traditionally enjoyed close and friendly relations characterised by mutual understanding and cooperation. I am confident that these relations will be further strengthened during your term of office. Please accept my personal best wishes for your good health and success."

India-Flagged Trawler, LTTE Smugglers Seized

BK0411113790 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Nov 90

[Text] The Navy apprehended an Indian trawler engaged in smuggling activities off the island of Kachchaitivu. Seven males have been taken into custody. Strangely, there were no Indian nationals in the trawler, pointing to the fact that the trawler had been forcibly taken over by the LTTE [Liberaion Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists for the transport of their supplies. Above 1,715 liters of diesel and 50 cans were among the items recovered.

The Navy destroyed another vallam [boat] off Kachchaitivu, which exploded when fired upon. Three bodies were found and another vallam loaded with packages of explosives was taken into custody.

President Visits Refugees Fleeing LTTE

BK0211124890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0744 GMT 2 Nov 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 2 (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday visited the Kuppiyawatte West Community Centre at Borella to look into the welfare of 288 Muslim refugees who had fled to Colombo from Mannar in the face of threats by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The president, who was accompained by the minister of housing and construction, Mr. B. Sirisena Cooray, handed over rupees one and a half lakh worth of food, clothing, and other essentials donated by the Colombo Central UNP [United National Party] Organisation, to be distributed among the refugees.

The refugees comprise 140 males and 148 females. Among them are children, public servants, teachers, traders, and farmers. They had gone to Kalpitiya from Mannar and arrived in Colombo the day before. They told the president that the Tigers had looted their belongings, threatening them with death if they did not leave Mannar by the end of October. They were allowed to take with them only rupees 2,000 and a gold sovereign, they said.

Forces Conduct Operations Against 'Terrorists'

BK0311142390 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Nov 90

[Text] The security forces have captured Pesalai and Mannar town on the Mannar Island. Military sources said yesterday that the combined operations were conducted yesterday in spite of inclement weather. The sources further said that there was no resistance by the terrorists in the areas concerned. The operations began on Thursday. The forces had found a number of vehicles abandoned by the Tigers [LTTE—Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. There was also a Red Cross vehicle. According to the sources, among the other items captured by the forces were, (Vijay-Doxen) electrical and electronic equipment.

Sporadic fighting was reported between the terrorists and the forces at (Talpanduwela) in Mannar. Here, the terrorists fled. One terrorist was killed in an operation conducted by the security forces in Batticaloa. Several others were taken into custody at Kotalakaru in Amparai. The forces successfully repulsed an attack on the Army camp at Chinnawatte, also in Amparai.

Six suspected terrorists were killed by the Navy, south of the sand banks close to Talaimannar on Monday. A high ranking naval official said that they were coming in a fiberglass dinghy fitted with an outboard motor from India to Talaimannar. As there was no response when we fired a warning shot in the air, we were compelled to fire at the boat, killing the six suspects, he said, and added that they were believed to have been bringing fuel. The Navy also seized an Indian trawler with four Indians and Sri Lankans aboard bringing in about 2,000 liters of diesel, contraband, betel leaves, and other items. The suspects have been taken into custody for interrogation by the security forces.

LTTE Kills 12 Soldiers in North, East Areas

BK0411110490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0838 GMT 4 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 4 (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered heavy casualties in encounters with security forces in northern and eastern Sri Lanka yesterday. Twelve soldiers were also killed in the fighting and four unarmed Sinhalese villagers were brutally slain by the terrorists.

A house-to-house search of Mannar town by government troops after it was taken Friday [2 November] by security forces revealed that the safes of all residents and traders had been forced open and cash and valuables plundered by the LTTE before they fled in the face of the advancing troops. Official sources said that as many as 60 to 75 armed terrorists had raided the peaceful farming village of Bandarakumbura at Horowapotana in the Northcentral Province and slain four villagers and wounded two.

They had also set fire to a Sri Lanka Transport Board bus, several tractors and four houses. The security forces had rushed to the scene of the crime and engaged the terrorists, causing heavy casualties and forcing them to flee.

At Karaitivu in the east, security forces detained 44 suspects and released them to the town's peace committee after interrogation. At Mawathipuram in Jaffna, two large groups of LTTE terrorists attacked a security force bunker near the railway line killing 11 soldiers. The LTTE were also reported to have suffered heavy casualties as the soldiers put up fierce resistance.

At Kattakulam, one terrorist and one soldier were killed when government troops attacked and destroyed a terrorist base. In a follow up operation with heligunship cover the terrorists suffered heavy casualties. One G-3 machine gun was also captured by troops. Security forces during a search operation discovered an abandoned LTTE camp at Kalanpathukulam and destroyed it.

A train travelling in Ballast was derailed between Kalkudah and Eravur, official sources said. Two modified dinghies and a vallam were detected carrying a large quantity of explosives and packages. The dinghies opened fire and one was destroyed by the security forces. Three bodies were found floating near the vallam which was also moving towards the Sri Lankan coast by a helicopter.

LTTE Women Guerillas Storm Jaffna Army Camp

BK0511090890 Hong Kong AFP in English
0853 GMT 5 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's most powerful rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said its female guerrilla unit carried out an attack on an army camp in northern Jaffna in which at least 26 people died.

"This attack was carried out under the command of the women guerrilla unit and led by women guerrilla leader Major Sanjika," who was killed in the offensive, the LTTE said in a statement issued by its London office and released here Monday.

The fighters destroyed the "mini camp" at Mawiddapuram in the Jaffna Peninsula with explosives on Sunday, the statement said. It said several army soldiers and 12 of its fighters were killed in the attack, and other government troops had fled to nearby Palali Air Force Base.

The bodies of 11 soldiers were found along with several automatic weapons, the statement said. Military officials here said at least 11 soldiers and 15 guerrillas were killed when the rebels stormed the massive army bunker, which was functioning as a "security force defence point."

An official said some 20 other soldiers had been injured in the attack that came two weeks after the army claimed it had liberated the rebel-held town of Mawiddapuram. A military spokesman said government troops controlling areas near the Palali base Monday continued operations to flush out the rebels who have vowed to drive out the army from the Tamil-dominated Northeast.

The LTTE, which renewed its secessionist war on June 11, controls the Jaffna Peninsula and large parts of the Northern Province and has several bases in dense jungles in the East from which they attack troops. Meanwhile, fresh violence during the last 24 hours in eastern Sri Lanka claimed at least eight more lives, including two Moslem fishermen.

The spokesman said the Moslems died when LTTE cadres opened fire at a group of people fishing at a lagoon in the district of Batticaloa. Two other fishermen jumped into the lagoon and their whereabouts were unknown, the spokesman said, adding that another Moslem escaped with gunshot wounds.

The LTTE has been accused by Colombo of the massacre of more than 200 Moslems in Batticaloa in August. The rebels have charged that Moslems in the east assist government troops in military operations against the Tigers.

Troops shot dead six LTTE guerrillas in two separate incidents in neighbouring Trincomalee District, the spokesman said. Nearly 4,550 people are reported to have died in violence in the Northeast since June 11.